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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union Meets in Tripoli

Delegates Meet Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2505220291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 May 91

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 25 May (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received at noon today the delegations participating in the 21st session of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the session of Arab unity, which is being held on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Meeting

LD2605035591

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Network in Arabic at 2015 GMT on 25 May carries a 62-minute recorded speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the opening session of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Al-Qadhdhafi welcomes participating delegations and the African ambassadors who are attending the session on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the founding of the OAU. After a 15-minute interuption, the recording proceeds with a speech by Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Magid, who speaks for 10 minutes on his determination to clarify the Arab atmosphere and his efforts to close Arab ranks and reinforce Arab cooperation and solidarity.

Al-Qadhdhafi thanks him and another speaker for touching upon the most important question, namely overcoming the current division, closing the Arab ranks, and reinforcing Arab solidarity. He welcomes the presence of the Arab League secretary general and urges him to work for the reform of the Arab League Charter, which is overdue. He underlines the importance of Libyan proposals for an Arab Federation as a basis for this reform. He urges the parliamentarians to legislate unionist laws to overcome regional obstacles.

Al-Qadhdhafi says: "In the presence of the Arab League secretary general, I call for work toward holding an Arab summit. I do not want to describe it as urgent nor wait for a long time. My analyses indicate that the current circumstances are favorable for holding an Arab summit, although appearances seem to be to the contrary. There are obstacles among a number of Arab countries and sensitivities, but all of this is finished. There was war and a real problem between Iraq and Kuwait, but this has ended. In fact, Arabs are now sympathizing day after day with occupied Iraq. Yesterday we were sympathizing with occupied Kuwait. But now, as brother 'Abd al-'Aziz has said: If we were against the occupation of Kuwait we should be now against the occupation of Iraq."

Al-Qadhdhafi complains that arrogance toward the Arabs has reached the limit: "The arrogance has reached an unbearable level. Floods will come afterward. He who thinks he is the policeman of the world, responsible for human rights, law, and democracy, has a disease called power-mania. No one has this right. The United Nations, which was formed by the world, could possess such a right. The United Nations is made up of equal peoples, according to its charter, and is not the possession of one or two states. The United Nations has the right to inspect, talk about human rights, amnesty, and demmocracy, but one state alone does not have this right. Who gave that state this right and to boast in such a manner?"

He then salutes the Palestinian intifadah and calls for the removal of the great deception when confining the intifadah to the West Bank and Gaza, as if the Palestinian people are only in those two parts of Palestine. "Unless the intifadah spreads to the land occupied since 1948, it will raise a question, because confining the intifadah to the West Bank and Gaza will consecrate the false slogan raised at the present that the Palestinian people are those who are in the West Bank and Gaza and that the Palestinian territory is the West Bank and Gaza. This is a historical falsification of Palestine and against sacred Arab land and a sacred cause. It is a falsification of the land and the people. Palestine is from the river to the sea and from the south of Lebanon to the south of Palestine where it meets the borders with Egypt."

He adds: "The intifadah must spread to all of Palestine from the river to the sea. We should support it on this basis. It must flare up in Akka, Haifa, Yafa, and all cities." He concludes by wishing the meeting success.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih proposes considering the speech by Al-Qadhdhafi as an official document of the session.

Assembly Concludes 26 May

LD2605224391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 May (JANA)—The 21st session of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly concluded its work at noon today in Tripoli. The session which was named the "Arab unity session" was held on 25 and 26 May 1991 in the Great Jamahiriyah; parliaments from the Arab homeland, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and a delegation of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] Consultative Council took part. A delegation of the Parliamentary League of Arab-European Cooperation also was present.

The conference debated a number of subjects concerning strengthening of Arab relations and the implementation of the Arab confederation project as a first step toward realizing comprehensive Arab unity.

The conference issued a final statement in which the participants highly appreciated the sincere and constant efforts of the custodian of pan-Arab unity, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for the fateful issues of the Arab nation and his relentless efforts for achieving

comprehensive Arab unity. They affirmed that what was contained in his speech at the opening of this session was a practical formula which is in harmony with the nature of Arab reality. It was adopted as a basic document of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The conference called on the Arab states to be committed to the implementation of the Arab economic unity agreement which laid down the objective basis of building a united Arab economy that realizes integration, establishes the desired Arab unity, and removes the administrative and legal obstacles that stand in the way.

The conference confirmed the call of the brother leader of the revolution for convening an Arab summit which is demanded by the circumstances through which the Arab homeland has been passing in order to restore Arab cohesion, to lay down the basis for joint Arab action, to consolidate the effectiveness of the Arab League, and to forge new instruments for the work of and the development of its machinery.

In this context it affirmed the importance of speeding up the drafting of a new Arab League Charter which deals with the new developments and conditions so that it can contain Arab crises within the framework of the Arab League. [passage omitted]

The conference saluted the African nations which are struggling for freedom and for safeguarding their independence and liberation from all aspects of racial discrimination. It called on the Arab nation to strengthen its cohesion with the African peoples and it should consolidate Afro-Arab cooperation which strengthens fraternal and contemporary relations between the Arab nation and African peoples. [passage omitted]

The conference considers the attendance of the League of Arab-European Cooperation at this session as evidence of the sincere trend of Arab and European parliaments toward realizing a contemporary dialogue between Arab and European countries, for realizing cooperation between them, for the sake of serving the joint interests of their peoples and turning the Mediterranean into a lake of peace and creative civilized cooperation.

The conference expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the European parliaments—members of the League of Arab-European Cooperation in publicizing and defending pan-Arab causes, foremost of which is the just issue of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Pays 'Working' Visit to Algeria

LD2905193791 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 91

[Joint Statement issued on the 27-29 May "Working and Friendship" visit to Algeria by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, His Majesty King Hassan II paid a working and friendship visit to Algeria from 27 to 29 May 1991. The masses in the western Algerian provinces accorded a warm welcome to the Moroccan monarch. [passage omitted]

In an atmosphere dominated by the spirit of fraternity and understanding, the leaders of the two countries and their accompanying delegations devoted their talks to the assessment of relations between the two brotherly countries in the political, economic, cultural, and social spheres. They strongly stressed their determination to strengthen these relations, while taking into consideration the noble aspirations of their two peoples; their belief in the establishment of an Arab, united and strong Maghreb; and fundamental changes that have emerged in the international arena.

For this common will to be realized, the two countries' leaders issued instructions to their governments to adopt immediate measures to achieve complete trust, and conditions for effectiveness, these being the two essential elements to free bilateral resources to promote exchanges in all fields to the benefit of both sides.

The two countries' leaders paid special attention to three sectors: the movement and residence of people; the movement of property and capital; and joint development and cohabitation in the border regions.

Regarding the movement and residence of people, the two leaders impressed on their governments to simplify the procedure for obtaining residence cards, the validity of which has been extended from two to 10 years, to improve conditions for cross-border movement, and to hasten establishment of the essential machinery aimed at bolstering judicial and social protection of both countries' citizens. In the same context, the need to hasten the study of files and the resolution of issues pertaining to individual property was stressed, particularly solutions that meet the needs of citizens harmed by previous measures.

The two governments, at the level of the two capitals, and through their diplomatic missions, would work to develop and organize joint action to protect and promote the interests of emigration, particularly within the framework of bilateral relations among Maghreb countries, and between them and the European Community.

The two leaders stressed that the development of border regions should be accorded priority through the following channels: By organizing cooperation between local authorities and communities, and the bodies concerned with regional development; by adopting the measures required to facilitate the movement of people and property in the border regions; by setting up joint bodies to promote economic and social activities, and infrastructure. The aim includes technical and organizational means and financial incentives, which will be firmly allocated for this purpose always toward joint development and cohabitation in the border regions.

In order to give a decisive push for a speedy development of the exchange of goods and services, the two

leaders urged their governments to immediately remove all barriers which obstruct the expansion and exchanges, whatever their nature, and to support this action with measures that would speed the coordination of taxation and excise policies. The two leaders also charged their financial authorities to complete the laying down of monetary payment means, and to secure the exports required for the continuous development of trade exchanges. For an ideal exploitation of the integration between the two countries' economies, the two leaders urged their governments to lay down an agreement on joint security for investments at the earliest date.

Out of their concern to promote political consultation at the bilateral level within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], the leaders of the two countries exchanged views on regional and Arab issues, and on the international situation. Consequently, they stressed their firm determination to continue work to strengthen the AMU as a solid Maghreban community capable of playing a positive role at the regional, Arab, and international levels, in a way that would guarantee joint interests, mutual benefits, and effective contribution toward the establishment of peace, security, and cooperation in the region.

The two sides stressed the need to make efforts to overcome the painful ordeal through which the Arab world recently passed, to work relentlessly to reestablish trust among Arab brothers, and to protect the supreme interests of the Arab nation.

Finally, they expressed their conviction that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole. In this context they urged the international community to implement the UN resolutions concerning the settlement of the Palestine issue and enabling the Palestininan people to establish their own independent state in their own land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Egypt, Jordan, Syria, PLO 'Common' Stand Seen

JN2705180191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] During the past two days, Cairo has refused to receive a high-ranking Israeli envoy to discuss bilateral ties and peace in the region. According to informed Egyptian sources, Egypt said that it is prepared to receive any Israeli official in Cairo when there is a serious Israeli position on achieving peace in the region.

Furthermore, press sources in Cairo said that Jordan recently contacted the Egyptian Government to discuss the Israeli project to pump water from Lake Tiberias in Jordan [as heard] and the effect of this project on Jordan's economy. Information suggests that the purpose of this project is to supply the new Israeli settlements with water. Israel wants the pipeline to supply more than 2,000 new settlements. According to the same sources, Egypt and Jordan have agreed to exert joint diplomatic efforts with various world forces to raise this issue and stop any such Israeli scheme.

Additionally, four-way contacts are going on among Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and the PLO to formulate a common position by the four parties in response to U.S. and Soviet proposals on the peace process. The current contacts concentrate on the steps through which the peace procedures can be started. The contacts also concentrate on the peace conference's agenda and the means of agreeing with Israel on it, and the position on Palestinian representation in the conference. The four parties are expected to announce a common position on the proposed ideas in the next few days.

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh Views PLO-Syrian Relations

LD2905191891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The head of the PLO Information Department, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, announced in Amman today that the PLO, Syria, and Jordan have identical views on the role of the peace conference on the Middle East. In a press statement, he said that the PLO and Syria agree with Jordan on the need to work for the convening of a peace conference on the basis of international legitimacy and [they agree] that it should have a continuous role.

In reply to a question on the PLO stance toward Baker's latest plan, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh found it sufficient to say that the Arab parties did not want to close the way to any serious opportunity for peace. But they adhere to international legitimacy. He pointed out that the sole obstacle to peace is not Syria, the PLO, or Jordan, but is the Israeli extremist policy, particularly the policy of settlement in the occupied territories.

With regard to the Palestinian delegations talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus yesterday, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that it was agreed to continue coordination and consultations between the two sides in the coming period, a thing which constitutes a new start in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

Algeria

Reportage on Islamic Salvation Front Strike

Interior Ministry Statement

LD2405145191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 91

[Report on Interior Ministry statement in response to Islamic Salvation Front's call for a general strike]

[Text] Yesterday the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader called for an indefinite nationwide general strike in all fields of activities. At the same time, marches and rallies have been announced in public places.

The declared aim of this adventurous action is to violate the democratic movement and all citizens' rights to practice freedom of choice by using an illegal method. The political strike and violation of public security come one month before the date for free elections which are to be held with the provision of all guarantees. The FIS position toward the elections is contradictory, as it refuses to participate in them.

The statement says that through this initiative the FIS leader has finally chosen the language of violating the stable progress of institutions and arousing deep disturbances in public life, in order to create an atmosphere of tension, sedition, and insecurity at a time in which the election campaign is about to commence. These elections are aimed at reviving the political options in the country.

The Interior Ministry statement says that the public authorities fully understand that the officials of this movement have for several months aimed, under whatever pretext, to violate the stable progress of the country toward democracy, stability, and security. Therefore, they would like to open the road to violence because they think that they will be able to drag state institutions into it.

In this context, public authorities are convinced that citizens will choose the way of legitimacy, and calmly practice in their jobs and public places free and responsible choices in the coming elections because of their maturity, civil perception, and understanding of the higher interests of the country. In one month, these elections will determine the future of the nation.

However, public authorities under all circumstances are determined to secure the normal progress of all institutions, all administrative, economic and social activities and also the security of citizens.

Hamas Movement Reacts

LD2505034991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Among the reactions of the parties to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] stance, the Hamas movement stressed the correctness of the strike as a means of expression, provided that it can be carried out in a secure atmosphere. Here is the position of the movement as expressed by its deputy leader, Mr. Bouslimani, in a statement to this radio:

[Begin Bouslimani recording] The Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, supports freedom of expression. Strike is one of the means approved by the Algerian Constitution and laws. However, the application of this constitutional right, the right to strike, means taking the security and stability of citizens into consideration and also preserving the necessities of citizens. In order to implement this law, we have to take into consideration the stage in which the country exists, especially the internal and external provocations to the multiparty system and democracy. [end recording]

Parties Criticize Strike Call

LD2505041691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 24 May 91

[Excerpts] Reacting to the general strike called by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], this evening the Social Democratic Party [PSD] called on the FIS to display wisdom and clear-sightedness. The PSD rejects any strategy of tension that would run the risk of leading the country into chaos, and calls for vigilance and maturity on the part of the Algerian people. The PSD's communique maintains that the coming to power of any political force must correspond to the will of the people, expressed through the ballot box. [passage omitted]

The Workers' Socialist Party [PST], declared its opposition to this strike launched by the FIS, a party described by the PST spokesman Mr. Salhi Shawky, as being an enemy of democracy in its daily practices.

Mr. Mustapha Toumi, an official of the National Alliance of Independent Democrats, opposes the FIS decision and considers it to be very serious since it bears within it the seeds of destabilization.

The Socialist Vanguard Party [PAGS], for its part, denounces this call for a strike, which puts civil peace at risk. PAGS calls on the people to show vigilance and to foil this plot.

Trade Union Rejects Action

LD2605040191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] We have just learned the opinion of the trade union organization's chief, Abdelhak Benhamouda, on the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] call for a general strike:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] The General Union of Algerian Workers' [UGTA] position with regard to the political strike is a clear and principled one: We are against political strikes, because strikes are part of the trade union's tasks. However, political parties may call for something like civil disobedience. The other thing we have asserted is that we cannot go along with the FIS call

for a strike, because the FIS was against the strike organized by the workers on 12 and 13 March. The FIS boycotted the strike, although the UGTA strike was one of protest. Therefore, it is not possible to go along with a group that was once against the stance of the workers and the UGTA. This does not mean that that the UGTA takes a position against the FIS. On the contrary, we can say that the UGTA is not against any party. Why? Because the UGTA members have various political affiliations. Therefore, if we support one party and are against another, we are going to be supportive of one group of workers against another. Calling for unity among workers, we cannot take such a stance. [end recording]

FIS Leaders Maintain Strike Call

LD2505040891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Despite the criticisms and the many calls for wisdom, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is sticking to its guns and maintaining its strike action. Its leaders repeated this today at a rally in Martyrs' Square. Boujemaia Sleimia, you were there:

[Sleimia] [words indistinct] It was a rally aimed at giving details on the reasons for the call for the so-called political strike starting tomorrow, Saturday. In his speech, the FIS No. two, Ali Belhadj, mentioned three points that made the FIS resort to this political strike: the silence maintained by the government with regard to the organization of early presidential elections, the refusal to abrogate the election law and the law defining the electoral constituencies, and finally, the pressures applied, I quote, by the government on the progress of the election campaign. As for the nature of this strike, Mr. Abassi Madani urged his members to ensure that it takes place amid calm and discipline. Mr. Abassi Madani nevertheless called on his members to go to their workplaces. He stressed that only the FIS will decide on the halt or the continuation of this strike and that news with regard to it will be supplied at the level of the FIS branches, the district committees, and via the media.

Political Situation in Question

LD2505210591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Before reading the rest of the national and international news, we remain on the same subject—the strike which was called by Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. This time we have the paper written by colleague Boudjoumaa Barhoum and read by Hasiba Houatim:

[Haoatim] The indefinite strike called for by FIS starting today has given rise to various reactions and numerous questions about the course which the political action in Algeria could adopt in the future.

The majority of the reactions concentrated on the direction of such a stance which, according to the other political parties, is taking place under unsuitable conditions and hence, threatens and endangers democracy.

As for the questions, they concentrated on the nature of the political strike itself. Such analysts believe that its concept is represented by the explicit call for civil disobedience and the refusal to deal with the constitutinal legitimacy, including state instutions.

In addition, the strike—which is a constitutional and legal right—is taking place under critical circumstances and was called without consulting the rest of the national political parties, particularly as the call for the strike includes impossible demands and an explicit call for conflict with the ruling regime.

The fear expressed by the political parties and other quarters is due to recent political experience and the possible interpretations of a political strike, which is the first of its kind in Algeria, and which might lead to acute arguments, and then to violence.

Observers at home consider that the call for such a strike under these particular circumstances means that the FIS is entering into political bargaining with the ruling party and is trying to appear as the only political party to be dealt with, and whose demands should be responded to.

The same observers believe that FIS, which won majority votes at the 12 June elections, could have avoided such a stance and should not have acted alone when the matter concerned the political future of the country because the rest of the parties in Algeria also have their word and role in anything related to the political actions.

Hamrouche, FIS Leaders Meet

LD2905223191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche this evening received Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, officials of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. They agreed to make an effort to avoid any resort to violence on the basis of the requirements which stipulate that the citizens' public, individual, and collective liberties be respected. They also agreed to leave the means of dialogue open.

Poor Response to Strike Reported

LD2505133591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Here in our country, matters seem to be normal on the first day of the indefinite general strike called for by Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], to demand early presidential elections, the abrogation of the elections bill, and the administrative division bill.

Traffic in the capital was nearly normal; most shops remained open. Most industrial plants and administrative and public services, such as posts, communications, and transportation, were also functioning as usual.

It was noted during the first day of the strike that the followers of Abassi Madani's party organized marches and gatherings like that held at Bab Ezzouar this morning. Our correspondent Hassiba Houassine sent us this report from there:

[Houassine] Some 300 people from the FIS, or slightly more, marched through Bab Ezzouar via the 8 May 1945 district toward Bourdj El Kifane. The leaders of the march were chanting slogans: "There is no God but God and Muhammad is his messenger"; "We die, we live and meet God after death, believing in him and Muhammad."

Slogans like this, together with the particpants' citing of the Koran, gives rise to a question on the nature of the strike: Is it political? Is it merely a religious call? Or is religion being used for political ends?

The participants were mainly youths; they did not all have beards yet. Some of them were wearing European clothes; they were not wearing white shirts as Ali Belhadj [FIS second in command] urged at yesterday's meeting in Martyrs Square. It should also be noted that the participants were well organized; they marched in line so as not to hinder the traffic.

Finally, one question remains to be answered: Has the FIS called for an indefinite general strike, merely a march, like the one we saw in Bab Ezzouar, or both?

100,000 Said To Attend FIS March

LD2805201991 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0600 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Failure for the strike of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria, but success for the march organized by the fundamentalists in the streets of the capital yesterday afternoon: The FIS succeeded in drawing 100,000 people to its call for the proclamation of an Islamic state in Algeria.

FIS Success Claims Questioned

LD2505204591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1830 GMT 25 May 91

[Reports by unidentified correspondents from Ouargla]

[Excerpt] During our inspection this morning and through our contacts with some of the major production units and political parties recognized in Ouargla, we noticed that the strike was limited and no strong participation was recorded except some slight strikes in the construction sector. Some shops and stores in Hadjar market in the middle of Ouargla, however, closed their doors and declared a strike.

According to the information official at Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] bureau, the strike achieved 75 percent success rate and included some educational institutions; SONAGAZ, and the commercial sector.

This rate does not look realistic, however, according to what we saw ourselves, and it needs confirmation.

The parties recognized in Ouargla, such as Solidarity and Development Party and Hamas movement, expressed reservations and criticism. Here is the Hamas movement's representative in Ouargla giving more explanations about the political strike:

[Unidentified speaker] FIS did not ask for solidarity from anyone. FIS only said that that was the stance of FIS. It did not ask for support. I think that everybody should be free to do whatever he likes, that is, whoever wants to work should work. [passage omitted]

Strike Continues for Third Day

LD2805144391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] In Algeria, the political strike staged by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in its third day was not met with response in various parts of the country. All the press sources were unanimous that the activities were normal in the majority of sectors, and that the strike, in the end, could be restricted to the municipality departments, in which FIS prevails.

It cannot be excluded that the authorities will resort to applying the law on the municipality councils which stops employees and workers from attending their jobs in some sensitive services connected to the vital interests of citizens.

The governors yesterday addressed a warning to all the municipality councils on strike which are governed by elements belonging to FIS, calling on them to resume work according to the municipal law which authorizes the governors, if the strike continues and the period of the warning ends, to handle the work of the councils themselves.

It is noteworthy that the streets of Algiers have been witnessing domestic garbage bags piling up for three days, which threatens the spread of diseases and epidemics.

Meanwhile, Algerian TV decided, beginning today, to stop covering any partisan activities at which the necessary security conditions are not provided for the TV teams. This decision was made following violence, chases, and insults which the Algerian TV teams were exposed to by FIS followers during the first three days of its political strike.

According to the head of Algerian TV, the TV has not taken any footage which deserves violence against individuals in response.

FIS Council Dissociates From Strike

LD2905235491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] National radio this evening received a statement from the National Consultative Council of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which bore the stamp of the Front's executive bureau. The radio has carried the full text of the statement. The most important thing in the statement is that the Consultative Council was surprised at the call on behalf of the FIS for a strike, and regards it

as merely a scheme to be added to the authority's designs to harm the FIS and to make it abandon the Islamic solution, for which FIS will not accept a substitute.

The FIS Consultative Council's statement says: The strike is on, but only after wisdom and good exhortation have been exhausted, particularly since the country and the people are in an unsuitable situation. The staging of a strike at this time is nothing but a conspiracy planned by the authorities and their agents in order to find a legal loophole to destroy the FIS and its gains.

The FIS Consultative Council concludes its statement by saying: In response to the principles of the noble shari'ah [Islamic law] and in view of the gains realized and their protection, the National Consultative Council of the Islamic Salvation Front, convened on 27 May, urges all brothers who are zealous about their religion and their chaste land to deprive the enemies, whether in or outside the country, of this opportunity by returning to their work places and to their positions of responsibility until God blesses us with the right opportunity to support Islam and Muslim by substantiating the Islamic solution.

Egypt

Government Welcomes Bush Statement on Arms

NC3005094591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt welcomes U.S. President George Bush's statement on arms control in the Middle East. Egypt, he added, hopes that all weapons of mass destruction are removed from the Middle East and that all states of the region commit themselves to achieving this goal. Musa said that the Foreign Ministry is currently studying all the points contained in the U.S. President's statement.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama Visits

NC2905192591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his delegation arrived in Cairo this evening for a two-day visit to Egypt. The visit is part of a tour that will also take the foreign minister to Iran and Israel.

Upon his arrival, the Japanese minister said he was happy to be visiting Egypt. He announced that foremost among the issues he will discuss are President Husni Mubarak's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and conditions following the Gulf war. He added that the talks will also deal with the strong relations between the two countries. He noted that Egypt and Japan are linked by bonds of amity and friendship.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who received the Japanese minister at the airport, said his visit is important in light of the two countries' notable standing among nations. He added that Japan is among the countries which show considerable interest in the Middle East and has friendly relations with Arab states.

Musa said that the Egyptian-Japanese talks will deal with ways of promoting bilateral ties in the political and economic spheres.

Views Talks With Mubarak

NC2905201591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said that he listened to Egyptian views on the Middle East during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this evening. He said that his talks with President Mubarak were very fruitful.

Minister Nakayama said: I have extended an official invitation to President Mubarak to visit Japan at any time suitable for him.

Answering a question on Japan's position following the Paris Club agreement to reduce Egypt's debt and the type of aid Japan will give Egypt, the Japanese foreign minister said that despite Japan's policy of not extending new loans to countries that have had their debts reduced, Japan will carefully consider any Egyptian aid request. He said his country will study how to respond to such a request.

He added that what will happen following the Paris Club agreement [words indistinct] bilateral talks will be held between Egypt and the chief creditor countries regarding the reduction of Egypt's debt.

Regarding Japan's position on the proposed Middle East peace conference, Nakayama said: We support U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals on the issue.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who attended the meeting, said that the Japanese foreign minister will leave for Israel tomorrow and will seek to persuade the Israelis to be more cooperative and flexible about the peace process.

Musa said he hopes that Japan's role and its participation in this matter will be beneficial to the peace process in light of Japan's notable international role. He added that it will be useful for peace if Japan convinces Israel that the only way to achieve peace is to be cooperative in the peace process and move toward establishing a just peace in the region.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that Mr. Nakayama clearly stated the issues which he discussed with President Mubarak and that he had conveyed an invitation from the Japanese prime minister to President Mubarak to visit Japan.

Musa noted that the Japanese foreign minister arrived in Egypt from Iran, where he held talks about the Gulf situation in the wake of the crisis.

Meets With Sidqi

NC3005110191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his delegation today. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said that the discussion dealt with the situation in the Middle East, current international topics, and all aspects of Egyptian-Japanese relations.

Departs for Israel

NC3005140691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 May (MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Cairo for Israel this afternoon after a 24-hour visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with senior Egyptian officials on the Middle East situation following the liberation of Kuwait, Egyptian-Japanese ties, and Japanese aid to Egypt. He also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, and discussed cooperation between Japan and the Arab League and the latter's role in restoring unity to Arab ranks.

Musa Receives Message From Soviet Counterpart

NC2605113391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Vladimir Polyakov handed the message to Minister Musa during their meeting today.

Following the meeting, Polyakov said that the message deals with the Soviet Union's desire to promote and enhance bilateral relations between the two countries. The message also deals with the Soviet Union's position on current efforts to promote the peace process.

Arab League Condemns Emigration of Ethiopian Jews

NC2905191491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Arab League has stated that the mass emigration of Ethiopian Jews runs counter to the process of establishing a just and permanent peace and solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It stressed that by the mass emigration of Jews, Israel seeks to annex Arab land by continuing to build settlements and deport and expel the land's original people. The Arab League noted that the Israeli settlements have met with international condemnation.

In a statement released today, the Arab League General Secretariat condemned Israel's attempts to absorb the Arab territory through the new immigrants. It exhorted the international community to exercise all forms of pressure on Israel to stop settlements and repressive measures in the occupied lands, and to respond to the international initiatives to work out a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Article Urges Further U.S. Pressure on Israel

PM2905150891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 May 91 p 4

[Jamal Abu-al-Futuh article: "Under Pressure"]

[Text] U.S. pressure proved to be a gigantic force in the Gulf war, a force capable of achieving miracles. The United States pressured its European allies and Japan into supporting the war decision and providing the necessary funds for the Desert Storm operation. It put pressure on Israel to prevent it from retaliating against the Iraqi Scud attacks. It put pressure on the Soviet Union to make it adopt a position as spectator of successive events. The pressure was usually exerted through the stick and carrot method, with Israel always getting the carrot, in the form of massive aid and arms.

There was an air of optimism in the world, that that magic pressure would be used to solve all the world's chronic problems, especially the Middle East problem. As soon as the war ended, everyone expected Washington to begin to put pressure on Israel to change its intransigent position on the occupied territories and on the question of the repression and persecution of Palestinians, the building of settlements, and disregard for the UN resolutions.

The U.S. pressure, when it came, was disappointing. It was evident during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tours that the United States was in fact only putting pressure on the victims of aggression, the Arabs, for more concessions. Its pressure on Israel is like that of an affectionate mother dandling her child. The latest example of U.S. pressure on Israel carries real danger. A bill has been submitted to Congress by 15 U.S. senators calling on President George Bush to put pressure on the Arabs to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel. Although the Arab boycott of Israel has, over the past years, been the only weapon of the vanquished Arabs against Israeli repression and violence, the United States does not want them to use that weapon. It wants to deprive the Arabs of all weapons which could be useful to them in future negotiations with Israel. Having expected the approaching peace winds, Israel quickly and strongly raised the issue of an Arab boycott in U.S. circles even before the end of the Gulf war. It tried hard to have a monopoly of the U.S. pressure, that strange weapon which solves all problems in its favor. It wants to add yet another weapon to its arsenal of weapons of destruction against the good Arabs, who are still optimistic that some day their issue will be resolved...through U.S. pressure.

Ghali Comments on Situation in Ethiopia

NC2805111191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, has stated that Egypt is closely following the rapid developments in Ethiopia. Dr. Ghali added that Egypt hopes the parties concerned will quickly reach an agreement which will restore stability to this important African country and preserve its independence and sovereignty.

He noted that the Egyptian ambassador in Addis Ababa has said the situation gives no cause for alarm, even though the opposition has entered the capital, and the embassy staff is working despite the curfew.

24 Deported Jordanians Leave for Amman

NC2405171291 Cairo MENA in English 1531 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Cairo, May 24 (MENA)—Egypt deported 24 Jordanians today aboard a Jordanian airliner heading for Amman.

The Jordanians arrived here yesterday from Kuwait after concerned authorities there ordered them to leave because of their alleged cooperation with the Iraqis during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

They spent the night at Cairo Airport and were flown to Amman this afternoon.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yasir 'Arafat

LD2905133191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 29 May, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Abd-Al-Majid

LD2505135391 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, yesterday evening.

Dr. 'Abd-al Majid is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah in order to attend the meetings of the 21st session of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Arab unity session, which is to be held on the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Syrian Speaker Makes Statement on Arrival

LD2405230291 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Tripoli/ Al-Maa [April] 24 / ARAB MAGHREB UNION POOL—The chairman of the Council of Nations in sisterly Syria, 'Abd- al-Qadir Qaddurah, and an accompanying delegation arrived last evening, in Tripoli, to participate in the 23rd session of Arab Parliamentary Union, the session of Arab unity, that will be held in Great Jamahiriyah during the coming two days.

'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah made a statement to JANA saying that we meet at this session that takes place on the aftermath of the critical circumstances that dominated the Arab homeland as a result of the Kuwaiti crisis. We will endeavor to achieve an effective Arab solidarity to confront the international challenges.

He added that we will act to install new Arab working conditions to acquire a distinguished status for our Arab nation through the universal community.

Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Arrives

LD2505174391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 May 91

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 25 May (JANA)—Brother Ghanim Aziz Khadduri, deputy speaker of the fraternal Iraq National Assembly, arrived in Tripoli midday today to attend the proceedings of the 21st meeting of the Arab parliamentarian bodies which opened in the Great Jamahiriyah today. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Council Vice Chairman Visits

LD2605164591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 26 May (JANA)—Brother Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in fraternal Sudan and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir was at the forefront of those who welcomed brother Zubayr Muhammad Salih and the delegation accompanying him.

Commentary Views U.S. Stand on Egyptian Scuds

LD2605140991 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The U.S. NEWS [as heard] magazine, in its latest edition, published yesterday, says that U.S. and Zionist senior officials have expressed concern over Egypt's move to manufacture Scud missiles. The magazine stated that Egypt made inquiries with the Soviet Union, North Korea, and Argentina regarding the extent of assistance that could be provided in this connection, and the possibility of meeting Egypt's demand to develop surface-to-surface missiles and ground launchers.

JANA's political editor, commenting on this report, said: It has become clear that the United States and Israel are determined to carry out any policy that will lead to subjugation and force them [as heard] into reluctant underdevelopment in all spheres. This policy leads to exactly the same results as a hot war. The editor stressed that this policy reveals that there is no peace between the Arabs and their enemies. This is a deadly war being launched by the enemies, without their having to resort to guns.

The editor indicated that the Israelis, who are being supplied by the United States with all kinds of arms, are expressing their concern, along with the United States, over the fact that Egypt could probably manufacture a defensive Scud missile, when they continue to manufacture nuclear bombs and weapons. However, nobody voices any objection.

Morocco

Perez de Cuellar Arrives for Talks With Hassan

LD2505134191 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Rabat, May 25 (MAP)—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here this Saturday noon. He is to meet King Hassan II this week-end.

According to a UN spokesman, Perez de Cuellar will confer with the sovereign on the projected referendum in the Sahara.

This visit, first leg of a three week tour that will also lead Perez de Cuellar to Algeria and other African and European countries, is taking place on the eve of the Moroccan sovereign's visit to Algeria (May 27-29).

The UN sponsored referendum in the Moroccan Saharan provinces formerly under Spanish rule is slated for the beginning of next year.

Departure Reported

LD2605141391 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Reviewing the royal activities, we point out that His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar in the royal court in Rabat yesterday evening. The UN secretary general left Morocco this morning.

In a statement to the press at Rabat-Sale Airport, the UN secretary general stated that he exchanged views with his majesty about various current international issues.

The UN secretary general was seen off by Mr. Ahmed Charkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Moroccan Permanent UN representative Mr. Moulay Ali Skali.

King Hassan Returns From Visit to Algeria

LD3005065891 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II has returned to the homeland after the working and friendship visit which his majesty paid to Algeria at the invitation of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Information Minister Welcomes Ethiopian Events

NC2405123091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Khartoum 24 May (MENA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, has stated that the downfall of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam signifies the collapse of the largest rebel base against Sudan. This, he said, will resolve a major part of the rebellion problem in southern Sudan.

The Sudanese minister affirmed that there is a close connection between the downfall of Mengistu, the former president of Ethiopia, and rebel leader John Garang's call for negotiations with the Sudanese Government. He explained that Mengistu's downfall led to the weakening of the rebellion and to Garang's flight from Addis Ababa to Kenya. The rebel leader had no other choice but to call for negotiations with the government in order to survive because the current situation in Kenya does not allow for the existence of an opposition.

In a statement to MENA correspondent Khartoum, 'Abdallah Ahmad said that he has discussed with Asiyasi Aforqi, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea, who is currently visiting Sudan, the latest developments in Ethiopia. He added that the front leader affirmed that the opposition fronts will expel the leaders of the rebels against Sudan from Ethiopian territory and close down their radio station, training camps, and offices because they cooperated with Mengistu in the military operations against the Eritrean rebels.

The Sudanese minister of culture and information said that Aforqi confirmed that no foreign parties are involved in the present military operations led by the Ethiopian opposition on all fronts. He added that the Eritrean official explained that the London conference to be held on Monday [27 May] will not stop the fighting, but will be a stage for dialogue and for reaching solutions. The Eritrean official stressed that military operations will continue if no solution is found.

The Sudanese minister expressed hope that the revolutionary movements in Ethiopia will liquidate and completely eliminate the remnants of the Ethiopian regime so as to achieve security and stability.

Regarding the type of regime that would rule in Ethiopia if the opposition revolutionary fronts assume power, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad said that the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea stressed at their meeting that they have no intention of exacting revenge or politically isolating anyone if they come to power. He said they will try to absorb all elements in the process of peaceful understanding. He stressed that all the opposition Ethiopian fronts agree on the type of the next regime which will give Eritrea the right to self-determination. He said that a federal system would be most suitable for the other Ethiopian provinces.

The Eritrean official expressed regret that Mengistu fled before paying the price for his ugly crimes against the Eritrean people. He accused him of killing 1.5 million Eritreans and stressed that the revolutionary fronts will work to bring him to trial if they assume power.

Comments on SPLA Movements

AB2805173091 Paris AFP in French 1543 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (AFP)—About 700 elements of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang) were killed in Ethiopia by Ethiopian rebels, Sudanese Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad stated today. In a statement to the press, Mr. Ahmad added that the "rebel" General John Garang, accompanied by several SPLA (southern guerrillas fighting against the ruling junta in Khartoum) leaders, have arrived in Kenya.

The Sudanese minister pointed out that the SPLA, while based on Ethiopian territory, tried to support Ethiopian Government forces by attacking the rebel forces in the western part of the country. The Ethiopian rebels, he stated, killed about 700 SPLA elements and forced the survivors to cross the border into Kenya.

Mr. Ahmad added that the departure of General Garang and other SPLA leaders for Kenya came "about two or three days before the flight of former Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile-Mariam's" last week.

The official Sudanese news agency, SUNA, for its part, indicated that "hundreds of SPLA rebels have arrived in northern Kenya," adding that "journalists have been denied access to that region."

Al-Bashir Congratulates EPRDF, EPLF Leaders

EA2905175791 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 29 May (SUNA)—Sudan has expressed its support to the [words indistinct] government, describing what had happened in Ethiopia as the choice of the Ethiopian people, the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH quoted an official source. Sudan also welcomed the recent agreement reached by the representatives of EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front], the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] and the OLF [Oromo Liberation Front] which [passage indistinct] the source said.

Chairman of the RCC, (Revolution Command Council] General 'Umar al-Bashir, telephoned yesterday the chairman of the EPRDF, Meles Zenawi, congratulating of coming [to] power in Ethiopia and also telephoned the secretary-general of the EPLF, Isayas Afewerki, congratulating on the victories achieved by the front and affirmed to him Sudan's support for the right of the Eritrean people [to] self-determination.

The three fronts agreed to hold a conference before the first of next July to discuss the details of the interim period in general and the formation of a new interim government, the paper added in a report from London. [Words indistinct] fronts expressed its appreciation for the efforts played by the USA and the other international observers, the report said.

Sudanese, Others Evacuated From Addis Ababa

EA2505220191 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] This afternoon a Sudanese aircraft returned from Addis Ababa carrying Sudanese and nationals from other fraternal countries in a unique evacuation operation from Ethiopia, under stringent security conditions. The matter was organized and coordinated under the supervision and guidance of Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, the minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister. The Ministry of Defense guaranteed the fuel, the Finance Ministry guaranteed the financing for the flight, and Sudan Airways altered its regularly scheduled flights to carry out the operation. The Relief and Migrant Affairs Ministry executed the operation in collaboration with the Department of Passports, Immigration, and Customs.

Returning to the homeland were 91 Sudanese families, along with six Iranian families, five Chadian families, and 40 Libyan nationals. All arrived safely.

It is worth mentioning that Sudan was among the countries which rushed to evacuate their nationals, as this was the second flight mounted by Sudan Airways. On the first trip, it evacuated 93 Sudanese families.

Army Statement on Ethiopians Nearing Sudan

EA2805163691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] Last night, the Ethiopian rebels entered the capital Addis Ababa after ordering the Ethiopian Government forces to fully surrender. [Brief break in transmission] About 1,300 Ethiopian officers and men reached the Sudanese border, some were accompanied by their families. The officers and men said that there were thousands of officers and men of the Ethiopian Government forces now on their way to Sudanese territory.

Yesterday evening, the Armed Forces General Command issued a statement directing our forces along the eastern border to treat the Ethiopians well in accordance with international norms.

In another development, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [as heard] Executive Committee called on all the factions of the Eritrean revolution to convene an urgent meeting to adopt the necessary measure to preserve the right of the Eritrean people to freedom and independence. [passage omitted]

More on Ethiopian Refugees

EA2805224891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1623 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA)—Fifteen thousand civil and military Ethiopian refugees arrived today to Allaffa [name as received] area on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders, and there are more than 150,000 Ethiopians on their way to Sudan.

[Word indistinct] (rtd) 'Abd al-Rahman Sir-al-Khatim, the refugees commissioner added that the situation of those refugees, who include some wounded, is too bad and critical and they need an urgent assistance of medicines and food items.

(?On) the other hand, the refugees commissioner has held a meeting today with the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] representative here during which urgent steps to [words indistinct] to those refugees in coordination with the eastern state authorities were discussed.

Ethiopian Pilot Granted Asylum

EA2405154691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Awaida, the Armed Forces official spokesman, has announced that Ethiopian pilot, Captain Fantana Gallo, landed at Khartoum Airport yesterday with a MiG-23 fighter plane. The Ethiopian pilot requested political asylum as he entered Sudanese airspace. Due to the eternal and friendly relations between Sudan and its sisterly neighbor, Ethiopia, and because of the friendly and eternal relations between the Sudanese and Ethiopian peoples, the Ethiopian pilot captain received a brotherly, friendly, and kind reception. His application for political asylum was accepted.

Rebel ELF-UO Committee on London Talks

EA2805125491 Khartoum SUNA in English 1028 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA)—The executive committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-the Unified Organisation ELF-UO [has] called on the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] to open a quick and direct dialogue with all the [sentence as received]. In a statement it issued last (?Sunday), the committee said that the London dialogue with the Ethiopian regime didn't represent the correct step for reaching the national independence, affirming the necessity [of] unifying the Eritrean will firstly. The statement called on all the Ethiopian opposition factions to stand beside the Eritrean right.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Interviewed During Trip to Spain

LD2705163591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 May 91

[Excerpts] On the occasion of his visit to Spain, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali gave an interview to the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS in which he confirmed anew his firm commitment to the democratic course in Tunisia. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the democratic process and whether it is now in a dormant stage, President Ali stressed that there is no dormant stage, not even a stoppage. He also stressed that if democracy is merely a matter of laws and decrees, then it would have been achieved since the first months afer the [November 1987] change.

He added: As far as the laws and statutes are concerned, the gains cannot be denied and no one is arguing against that. However, democracy is also ethics, mentality, and daily practice and it needs long experience. These aspects have their importance as far as we are concerned. Therefore, Tunisia in its course has adopted rules dictated by its commitment to securing the success of its actions.

The president stressed that the process of establishing democracy is a very serious matter and cannot be done in haste, and has been done abroad. He pointed out that the Tunisian people have acquired unique characteristics and personality during their long history, and, in order for the democratic structure we are establishing to survive and progress satisfactorily, it is imperative, and it is our duty, to make sure that it will be compatible with these characteristics whose neglect is foolhardy and even dangerous.

The president stressed that the danger of extremism will not make us change our direction. The religious extremists would like to benefit from all the freedom of action provided by the democratic system in demolishing it. This is one of the contradictions of democracy. However, we will not let ourselves be imprisoned by this contradiction. [passage omitted]

Concerning the dialogue with the opposition, the head of state stressed that this matter has never been a subject for revision; that the government has no problems with the opposition; that the channels of dialogue and consultation have never been severed; and that the dialogue with the opposition is continuing with conviction and commitment. [passage omitted]

Talks With King, Returns

LD2905142291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] The state visit paid by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Spain at the invitation of King Juan Carlos I, the king of Spain, from 27 to 29 May has ended. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali returned to Tunis today from Madrid. [passage omitted]

Before departing Madrid, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a meeting with King Juan Carlos I who came to see him off following the state visit the president paid to that country. The president thanked the King of Spain for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him in Spain and expressed his appreciation for the keen interest of his majesty, and the senior government and parliament officials in further underpinning relations between the two countries, a matter which reflects the depth of the historic and cultural bonds between the two friendly peoples.

His excellency the president renewed his invitation to King Juan Carlos I to visit Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Thanks Rally for Stand Against Ennahdha

LD2505221591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 91

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received a report from Mr. Chedli Neffati, the secretary general of the Constitutional Democratic Rally, on the activities of the Rally. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president also expressed his thanks to the Rally members for their decisive stance against the vile conspiracy which was hatched by the so-called Ennahdha movement.

Western Sahara

UN Referendum on Sahrawi Future Viewed

LD2705155491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Today, Morocco's King Hasan II arrives on an official visit to Algeria at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. The summit is devoted to discussing bilateral and economic relations and especially to the referendum which the United Nations plans to hold to decide the future of the Sahrawi people. Yesterday, President Chadli Bendjedid received the UN secretry general who is presently visiting our country as part of a tour which takes him to Morocco and the Sahrawi areas in preparation for the referendum. Perez de Cuellar said he hopes to see Morocco and the Polisario sign an agreement to observe a cease-fire in June. While waiting for this to happen, agreement is certain concerning the referendum question on the self-determination of the Sahrawi people. Even the problem of the list of the Saharawis who will be involved in the referendum is no longer an obstacle to the peace plan. This is explained by the Sahrawi ambassador in Algiers, Ibrahim Hakim, in his statement to national radio:

[Hakim] This is, of course, an important element; however, we can easily say that this element has now reached its end. In 1988, a meeting took place between the two sides in Geneva, Switzerland. An agreement was reached, in that the list from 1964 which was left by the Spanish Administration will be the main basis of the electorate. The agreement of the Moroccan Kingdom to this principle took place. Also, the Polisario Front accepted this principle. In the last few months, a meeting took place in Geneva between the two sides and the UN organization. At the meeting, agreement was reached to form a technical committee comprising technical experts of the United Nations and of tribal shaykhs from the Sahara, 19 of them from the occupied territories in the Sahara and 19 of them from the liberated territory which is under the control of the Sahrawi Liberation Front, or the Polisario Front. The final touches were made by this committee in Geneva; therefore, this matter, in fact, has been made easy from the outset.

Kuwait

Minister Announces Extension of Martial Laws

PM2905144491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 May 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Martial Laws Extended for One Month"]

[Text] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman has announced that "it has been decided to extend the martial laws enforced in Kuwait since 26 February for another month ending 26 June."

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, Minister al-'Uthman said, "The martial laws and regulations stipulated in the amiri decree issued in this connection, which were scheduled to end yesterday, will remain in force for the stated period."

Minister al-'Uthman also said that "The eight individuals used by the Baghdad tyrant to form the provisional government after invading the country are still in detention and have been referred to the judicial authorities."

The minister of state for cabinet affairs stated, "The cabinet attaches great importance to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held in the prisons of the Iraqi war criminal." He added that "Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Ghazi 'Ubayd al-Sammar is making extensive efforts to resolve this issue and to ensure the return of all the prisoners and detainees to their families." He noted, "The national committee in charge of following up the issue of the prisoners and detainees is discharging its duties perfectly and has achieved some success and made some progress in its endeavors."

Minister al-'Uthman appealed to the public and to residents "to respond to the Interior Ministry officials." He urged them to hand over their weapons "for the sake of everyone's security and safety."

Opposition Protests Extension

JN2805171491 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti opposition has protested the extension of martial law in Kuwait for another month. In a statement to a REUTER correspondent following a meeting between the opposition factions and the ruler of Kuwait last night, Democratic Front Leader 'Abdallah al-Anbari expressed deep concern over the extension of martial law, which failed to maintain security in the country. He said the extension will only lead to the oppression of people and suppression of the freedom of expression. He said opposition leaders demanded that the government carry out urgent democratic reforms and immediately announce the holding of general elections in Kuwait. It should be noted that toward the end of February, martial law was declared in Kuwait for three months. The period ended yesterday, but the government extended it for another month.

Prime Minister Chairs Security Committee Meeting

LD2605112691 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, chaired a meeting of the Security and Political Committee at his court at al-Bayan Palace last night. The commander of the National Guard, the minister of social affairs and labor, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the minister of defense, the minister of interior, and the minister of justice and legal affairs were present at the meeting, which was also attended by a number of officials and commanders from the Ministries of Interior and Defense and the National Guard.

Several security issues were examined at the meeting. His highness asserted the need for firmness in enforcing the law and for the necessary measures to be taken to consolidate security and bring about a totally peaceful and stable situation in the country. These are priorities that the government is eager to achieve and it will not be slack about them, he said.

His highness reaffirmed his appreciation for the great responsibility being shouldered by the security forces in this critical stage of our national march and the exceptional circumstances through which the country is passing. He called upon everyone to exert more efforts to guarantee the security of the country and the citizens.

Minister Thanks GCC States for Assistance

LD2605192391 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait has praised the policy of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member-states and their constructive role in consolidating the strong fraternal relations between the member-states and their peoples which were embodied by their firm and coherent stand in supporting Kuwait's just cause, as well as with their effective participation with fraternal and friendly states in the liberation of Kuwait from the criminal aggressor and the regaining of its sovereignty and freedom. This was said by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Ulthman in his statement today at the end of the meeting of the Council of Ministers which was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, prime minister and heir apparent.

The council welcomed the treaty of fraternity, cooperation, and coordination between Syria and Lebanon which was signed recently. The council expressed hope that the treaty will contribute to strengthening security, stability, progress, and prosperity for the peoples of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

LD2505170391 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, conferred this morning with Soviet Ambassador in Kuwait Mr. Ernest Zverev. The talks revolved around relations between the two friendly countries and the latest development of the situation in the Gulf area.

Court President Defends Sentences on Collaborators

LD2605205491 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 91

[Excerpts] The president of the Kuwaiti (?higher) court, Advocate Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay al-Bannay, affirmed the correctness of sentences handed down by the court martial on those who collaborated with the Iraqi authorities during their occuaption of Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA today, al-Bannay pointed out that in its legal procedures in this field, Kuwait followed the Latin code—the system followed in many Arab states. [passage omitted]

The president of the (?higher) court described the doubts being repeated about the correctness of the sentences [words indistinct] against those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation authorities as being illogical. He pointed out also that the trials are being held openly and everybody is allowed to follow what takes place in the courtroom, as all the accused are allowed to defend themselves, either in person or by means of one of the Kuwaiti lawyers who have been recruited by the court to defend the accused. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the court martial judge agreed to all the applications for adjournment which the lawyers asked for in addition to the fact that all the defense lawyers were allowed to get acquainted with the statements of witnesses or the accused in the official recorded statements in the cases. He pointed out that those rights are known by every [defense] lawyer. On the other hand, advocate al-Bannay pointed out that the number of cases of collaborators which have been referred to the [higher] court is now 175.

Court Postpones Trials

LD2905210891 London KUNA in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 May, (KUNA)—The Martial Court today postponed examining and passing sentence in 15 cases of people charged with collaborating with the Iraqi occupation authorities. Testimonies by the defense and witnesses for both sides will be heard at future sessions. In today's session, the court charged 31 people, some of whom did not attend because they are either free, or because they were not brought from prison. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Pilgrims Told Political Literature 'Prohibited'

LD2805211391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 May (SPA)—The Interior Ministry has warned the brothers coming to perform the duty of the pilgrimage against carrying books or pictures or leaflets of a political, propaganda, or ideological orientation which contradicts the noble aim of the pilgrimage. This came in a statement issued by the Interior Ministry, the text of which is: [passage omitted on Koranic verse]

In this climate that is characterized by ties of faith between the citizens of this country and their brothers-in-faith, preparations begin for receiving the guests of the compassionate. Every possible effort is being made in line with the status of the aim and the honor of the guests to create the appropriate climate for the pilgrims of the House of God who have come from all corners of the earth with good intentions and hope.

From the premise of the divine code for this religious rite, the sons and government of the Kingdom appreciate the great effort being made by their brothers-in-Islam in order to perform one of the pillars of their orthodox religion.

Therefore, everyone is trying to provide the pilgrims with all the means to attain their goal and perform their rites easily and comfortably, and avoid anything liable to affect the atmosphere of submissiveness and worship for which they have arrived, or hurt their feelings, fraternity, and the sanctity of their goal.

This Ministry has noticed that individuals among the brother comers are carrying with them—whether inadvertently as we think or because of their wish to exploit this honorable occasion—books, photographs, and leaflets of political, propagandist, or ideological aim which could either affect some people or directly hurt others and hence contradict the noble aim of the pilgrimage.

Therefore, the Interior Ministry, according to its instructions, draws attention to the fact that such things are completely prohibited, and hopes that the pilgrims will have the opportunity to perform their rites serenely and that no one will try to distract them from the prayers for which they came.

As it emphasizes this, the Ministry hopes that everyone will abide by it and will not violate it.

As it explains this to all comers, the Ministry at the same time would like to remind them of God's words: "For hajj are the months well known. If anyone undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the hajj. And whatever good ye do, (be sure) God knoweth it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct. So fear me, o ye that are wise."

God is the leader and guide to the right way.

Khalid Bin-Sultan Receives Syrian Commanders

LD2905195391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1746 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Riyadh, 29 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the commander of the Joint Forces, received at his office today Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Syrian Forces, and Major General 'Ali Habib, the commander of the Syrian Forces that participated in the war of liberation of Kuwait, and those accompanying them.

Yemen

Al-'Attas Says Ethiopian Ships Seek Refuge in Yemen

JN2705104191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 91 pp 20, 16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi in Sanaa]

[Text] The Yemeni prime minister has disclosed that a number of naval military vessels belonging to the Ethiopian Government forces have sought refuge in Yemen.

Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said in a comprehensive interview to be published in the newspaper SAWT AL- SHA'B tomorrow that the number of naval vessels that have reached the shores of Yemen amounts to 12 vessels belonging to the Ethiopian Government forces.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on how Yemen will deal with these naval vessels fleeing from their country, the Yemeni prime minister said that we welcome and receive them. When the circumstances for their return to Ethiopia are right, we will facilitate that process and take prompt action to return them to their country.

Mr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas refused to give any further details about Yemeni mediation efforts reported earlier between Iraq and Iran regarding the subject of the Iraqi planes. He only said that Yemen is always ready to mediate between any two Arab or Muslim countries. He said this subject had been proposed by some brothers.

The prime minister said that the amounts of oil and gas discovered are encouraging and excellent. The reserves of gas amount to 11 trillion [units not specified]. Oil is currently being extracted from Ma'rib. Before the end of the year, Yemen will have a comprehensive idea about the discovered oil reserves.

Asked whether the oil will be dedicated for development and to serve the Arab causes, Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said that developing Yemen cannot take place in isolation from the rest of the Arab countries. What happened during the Gulf crisis was caused by selfishness and has resulted in misusing Arab resources.

Answering a question on Yemen's active participation in the Arab Cooperation Council and whether the Council can be restored, the Yemeni prime minister said we first have to evaluate matters and then discuss forms of cooperation within the framework of the view we reach regarding action and readiness to interact among the Arab brothers.

He added that preparations are under way to convene the Jordanian-Yemeni committee and that its working agenda contains many proposals that strengthen cooperation between Yemen and Jordan. It also integrates economic relations and bolsters energetic action to interlink economic interests.

Regarding U.S. efforts to find a solution to the Palestine question, the Yemeni prime minister said that all signs indicate that nothing has really changed since before the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that an effective Arab role is necessary to bring about peace and resolve the Middle East crisis.

Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas added that Yemeni losses from the Gulf crisis were great, no less than 3 billion [currency not specified].

AFP Reports Sailors Seek Refuge

AB2605132991 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Sanaa, May 26 (AFP)—More than 3,000 sailors aboard 11 Ethiopian naval vessels sought refuge in Yemen Sunday after fleeing rebels capturing Ethiopian cities and tightening a vise round the capital Addis Ababa, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abd al-Karim al-Iryani announced.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 sailors aboard ships including frigates and destroyers took refuge at the Yemeni Red Sea port of Mukha, Mr. al-Iryani told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Yemeni officials meanwhile announced the fall of the Ethiopian city of Debre Zeyit to rebels and confirmed the capture of its air base, with the commander and 17 pilots defecting to nearby Djibouti.

Mr. al-Iryani also said that the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) had signed an agreement calling for the Ethiopian people to vote in a referendum on the status of Eritrea.

"Because of this agreement, the two parties are committed to overthrowing the Ethiopian regime and then organizing

a referendum in Eritrea, supervised by the United Nations, to decide if the Eritrean people want an independent state or a confederation with Ethiopia," he said.

Several Ethiopian movements have for years been fighting for the independence of Eritrea, which Ethiopia considers an integral part of its territory.

Mr. al-Iryani denied that Ethiopian forces defending the Eritrean capital of Asmera—taken by the rebels on Friday—had sought refuge in Yemen. "They took refuge in Djibouti," he said.

Some reports said some of the defenders had fled to Yemen after Asmera fell.

Annex to UN Refugee Accord Agreed 24 May

JN2405180791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1747 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—INA has learned that agreement was reached with the United Nations on a supplement to the memorandum of understanding signed on 18 April between Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN executive representative.

The annex agreed today with the United Nations is aimed at expanding service and relief work provided by the United Nations in areas to be agreed later with a view to expediting the repatriation of displaced Kurds to their cities and villages.

Foreign Minister Explains Annex

JN2505115191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—Iraq and the United Nations have agreed on the text of an addendum which defines the facilities and required support for the humanitarian centers affiliated with the international organization. In a statement to INA, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said: The talks held during the past few days with coordinator Bernt Bernander, personal representative of Prince Saddrudin Aga Khan—about the additional needed arrangements to provide more facilities and support for the UN-affiliated humanitarian centers, which it was agreed would be established in some of Iraq's governorates in light of these governorates' needs—resulted in an agreement on the text of the above-mentioned addendum.

The foreign minister added: This addendum is considered an integral part of the memorandum of understanding signed between Iraq and the United Nations on 18 April. The same conditions in the memorandum apply to this addendum, which shall be implemented in cooperation and coordination with the competent Iraqi authorities and will become invalid at the end of the period defined in the memorandum, which is 31 December 1991.

The foreign minister noted that this addendum calls for expanding the UN activities in terms of providing relief aid and establishing relief centers in cooperation with the Iraqi Government. He said that in this agreement we have achieved an important and good step in giving a large and basic role to the United Nations in the relief operations and in rendering assistance in order to speed up the return of all evacuees to their towns, villages, and houses.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn expressed in his statement his satisfaction at endorsing the appropriate text of the addendum. He said: Iraq reiterates its great readiness to implement all the articles of the memorandum of understanding and the new addendum, which will become an integral part of it.

Baghdad To Participate in June OPEC Meeting

JN2905133891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—Iraq will participate in OPEC'S Ministerial Conference due to start its work in Vienna the first week of June.

In a statement to INA, Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, minister of oil and head of the delegation that will participate in the conference, said that by participating in the conference Iraq seeks to support OPEC's policy in a manner that will serve the interests of both producing and consuming nations with a view to obtaining a true oil price per barrel.

The minister added: The delegates will discuss supply and demand on the international oil market, production quotas of the OPEC members, as well as the reports to be submitted by the Economic Committee and the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee. From these reports the conferees will determine OPEC's production ceiling and the quotas of member states during the second half of this year to ensure a minimum price for OPEC crude oil according to supply and demand.

AFP Reports Further on Attendance

NC2905120991 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, May 29 (AFP)—Iraq's oil minister, seeking to end his country's isolation, said Wednesday he planned to attend a major OPEC meeting next week in Vienna.

It would be the first time since the Gulf crisis erupted in August.

"Everything can be solved through dialogue and understanding each other," 'Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said, adding Iraqi officials were going in the spirit of dialogue and "in an opened-minded mood."

Mr. al-Hiti, during a meeting with foreign journalists, invited the other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to adopt the same approach and pleaded for the removal of the economic sanctions.

"It is not good for the stability of the region that Iraq is not authorized to have normal relations and deal with the rest of the world," Mr. al-Hiti said.

Asked about the most desirable price for oil, he said: "We hope that our partners study carefully the supply and demand question to reach the right price for oil."

He said that "price and market stability is very important. We don't want the highest price."

Turkish Newspaper Interviews Saddam

NC2905165591 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 28 May 91 p 11

[First of an unspecified number of installments of an interview with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by MILLIYET columnists former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and Derya Sazak in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] **End the Embargo**

[Question] Mr. President, we do not wish to recall the bitter memory of past incidents. Although the war has ended, regional developments are still creating anxiety. The presence of U.S. and British military units in the region does not seem to be temporary. Some believe that the foreign forces in the region are making an effort to establish a satellite state. How do you see the post war situation? What is your opinion on developments which concern Turkey?

[Saddam] If you wish, I will reply by recalling a number of recent developments. The world assessed the developments on 2 August in a totally one-dimensional way. The situation was not described correctly by the news channels of the 30 countries which attacked us. The incidents were being relayed from a very close distance. The truth of the incidents which took place before 2 August was not conveyed.

The Kuwaiti crisis was described as the outcome of aggression when, in fact, it was a defensive move.

Let me tell you about the steps the United States took against Iraq long before the Kuwaiti crisis. We had an agreement on grain imports until the United States decided to annul it February 1990. It also decided to abandon its technological and scientific cooperation with Iraq. Why? The reason is very simple. It was completely political. That is why it took such a step. What has the United States been doing since the war? It has left the people of Iraq hungry.

The Kuwaiti problem is over now. Why then is the United States maintaining a policy aimed at leaving the people of Iraq hungry? Why has it besieged Iraq?

If we look at these two developments—the embargo and the annulment of the agreement on grain imports—we better understand what the United States wants to achieve.

The United States drew up a number of plans against Iraq prior to the Kuwaiti crisis in August. Is it not true that the decision to annul the agreement on grain imports in February 1990 and the subsequent imposition of limitations in the technological field confirms that the embargo against Iraq was planned long before the crisis began?

Let us now discuss the region's future. We believe that relations between neighbors must be based on reconciliation and agreement. Short-term or vindictive policies must not be maintained between neighbors. Neighboring countries must not maintain opportunist policies. All this must be replaced with agreements. Common interests must be created through dialogue.

No problem will remain unresolved if we hold dialogues to strengthen harmony and enhance common interests. Neighboring countries must maintain a state of agreement. Any of the neighboring countries in the region may have a greater number of problems. Undoubtedly, the problems of one of the neighboring countries will impact on the others. If a state of common understanding [anlayis birligi] exists on this point, these problems will not harm neighbors. Consequently, the cost of national security will be significantly reduced.

It is common knowledge that the question of national security is a wide-ranging concept. It includes the economic, political, and military aspects. National security is very costly. However, if certain shortsighted individuals move to upset the balance for the sake of making gains which can be described in terms of a few billion dollars, they will have to pay many times that amount as compensation later. As neighbors we have to agree among ourselves to maintain our national security.

If our relations were to face an impasse, it would not be due to a threat but to the difficulties in maintaining national security. Therefore, we must all, including the Turks and the Iranians, come to a common understanding. We received many wounds during the war. (He points to his chest) We were hit by many arrows.

However, I must say all this for the sake of the future. The disruption of the national security of one of the neighboring countries will have negative effects on all the others.

I believe that the disruption of national security in Iraq will have negative effects on Turkey as well.

Iran has also realized this state of affairs. Nevertheless, a number of individuals in Iran prefer to ignore this for one reason or another. They are being pushed by a grudge and anger to maintain this policy. This is the true state of affairs. The existence of a number of factors outside the region influencing the region is a reality.

Foreign Forces

The existence of these factors clash with the interests of the region. Let us now consider the external factors.

The powerful countries think only about their interests without considering the extent of the loss suffered by the other countries. Friendships remain only in protocol. In other words, they present themselves as friendly countries only from the point of view of protocol.

Contrary to foreign countries, the regional countries have a different approach on their own problems. This is because the people in the region see their problems in light of existing conditions and from the point of view of

future developments. External countries cannot consider the region's future in depth.

We suggest, therefore, that when taking a step forward, our neighbors should always consider the future. The neighboring countries are linked with their borders. States cannot be carried on shoulders or in vehicles [as published]. As neighboring countries, we will always exist side by side.

The War for Oil

Let me ask you a question. Are the United States and Saudi Arabia not friends? Yes, they are. Why, then, has the United States established oil states near Saudi Arabia? Why? Why has the United States not helped these states become powerful countries?

It is because they want to disperse the oil resources. They do not want to leave the oil regions to large communities. Why not? If they have small states in the oil region, which is what they want, they will be able to control everything, including the oil resources.

This is the U.S. objective. Britain and France have the same objective. The war has come to an end, but I do not believe that all of these countries' plans have been brought into the light.

More on MILLIYET Interview

TA2905102891 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0945 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Ankara (A.A)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn accused the West in an interview published on Tuesday of trying to set up an oil-rich Kurdish state in the north of his country.

Saddam, who was interviewed by former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit for the liberal daily MILLIYET, said Western states were using Iraq's Kurds to divide the country and win better access to oil revenues in the north.

"They are after the establishment of a small oil state," Saddam said.

"We have been talking to the Kurdish opposition leaders. The Iraqi Kurds are not after separatism. It is the West that has been encouraging it."

Troops from the Gulf war coalition occupied northern areas of Iraq in April to shield Kurds from the Iraqi Army after Saddam crushed a Kurdish revolt. The allies say they want to withdraw from the north by mid-June, leaving a U.N. presence.

Kurdish leaders have been holding talks with the government in Baghdad on an autonomy deal and free elections in Iraq.

The Kurds want to include the oil town of Karkuk in an autonomous region, the government to exclude it.

In the interview with Ecevit, who visited Baghdad last week, Saddam called for talks among Iraq's neighbours to protect the region from Western interests.

He said the United States did not want oil revenues to be in the hands of large nations in the area.

"If they divide the oil-rich region into small states then they will control everything, including oil," he said.

"Unlike the foreigners, the region's countries have a different view of their problems. We neighbours must pursue our own common interests."

Saddam, whose invading forces were driven out of Kuwait by the U.S.-led coalition, added: "There should be no policies of revenge. There should be a dialogue instead."

Saddam Asserts Perseverence With Arab Cause

LD2905125591 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Rabat, May 29 (MAP)—The stand of the Arab Maghreb in the Gulf war was "far more authentic than that of the Arab Mashriq [East]". "We understand this attitude", President Saddam Husayn said in an interview with Moroccan daily AL ITTIHAD AL ICHTIRAKI published Tuesday.

"Besides other factors, the geographic situation plays a role, for geographic nearness generates problems between neighbours", President Saddam said.

The Iraqi president denounced "the U.S.-Western propaganda campaign" charging him of "levying 15 pc of Iraq's oil returns and of possessing several billion dollars and a number of palaces, real estate and buildings throughout the world".

"The Westerners are mistaken when focusing their campaign on my person", President Saddam said expressing dismay to see the west "still talking of moral principles and rights seemingly ignoring that they had incited about thirty countries to destroy civilian buildings and facilities in Iraq, to starve a whole people and to impose the law of the jungle".

The Iraqi president said the Western media and politicians have "suddenly forgotten their own principles on the right to have different opinions to form a front against Iraq just because Saddam Husayn dared to say 'no' rejecting their plans and waving the pan-Arabism standard." "What took place is nothing else than a return to old colonial hatred, under new masks and in a new style", President Saddam said.

To a question on Iraq's pledge to replace "revolutionary legitimacy" by "constitutional legitimacy" Saddam Husayn asserted that nothing will hamper the change moves that will be implemented at a quicker and quicker rythm.

"Our struggle is relentless and we are determined to persevere on the drawn path...Saddam Husayn will never give up his cause, that of Arabs," the Iraqi president said.

Kurdistan Council Denounces U.S. Presence

JN2505194291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—The Executive Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region has strongly denounced the U.S. and Western military presence in Dahuk Governorate, and said the presence constitutes flagrant interference and another link in the chain of the unjust aggression against Iraq.

In a cable to the heads of states party to the U.S.-Atlantic coalition taking part in the aggression against Iraq, Ja'far 'Abd- al-Karim al-Barzanji, the council's president, said this flagrant interference is a form of extortion under the cover of humanitarian acts.

On behalf of the Executive Council members, he rejected all the schemes to use the problem of refugees for political ends, which infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, the dignity of its people, and its national unity.

He stressed that the Iraqi people's humanitarian problems can be resolved when foreign military troops depart Iraqi territory and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted. Iraq will remain proud and lofty under the banner of its leader and great symbol, struggler President Saddam Husayn.

The Executive Council president emphasized that the United States and its allies will never be more concerned about our Kurdish people than the Iraqi leadership.

Vice President Discusses Post-Gulf War Affairs

JN2705083591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 91 p 18

[Interview with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Sa'd al-Silawi in Sanaa—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Silawi] The Security Council issued Resolution 678, sanctioning the use of force. Iraq could have spared itself these sacrifices and losses if it had complied with it. Why did Iraq not withdraw?

[Ramadan] If history repeats itself, we will still act in the same way because talk about Kuwait as part of Iraq was not dialectical or imaginary, but a conviction in which we believed. We found that the plot could be encountered by bursting this "abscess" open. This was and still is our opinion. We had no other alternative but to surrender. Consequently, we could not withdraw from Kuwait merely because the United States and its allies said they would strike at Iraq. Why should we withdraw if we were convinced in what we did? Do they believe that the United States and its allies would applaud us? Yes, aggression was expected and we knew that they would strike at Iraq with all their means whether or not we entered Kuwait. Therefore, we found that this legitimate path, the path of our objectives, would enable us to confront this danger and with smaller losses. When we became sure that the United States and its allies would under all circumstances strike at Iraq, it became very clear to us that thinking of withdrawal would not only bring about a defeat but also a setback for all national and pan-Arab elements which see in this trend the path that raises the Arab citizen's morale and Arab ability. It is the beginning of saying no to the forces of aggression even if there are losses. [passage omitted]

[Al-Silawi] What, in your opinion, is required in the coming phase?

[Ramadan] What is required in the coming phase, as I have said, is promoting the masses' awareness and stressing that we emerged from this battle victorious in the full sense of the word. Despite our knowledge of the enemy's strength and the size of our sacrifices, we will not cede our principles. [passage omitted]

In any case, I think that the average citizen understands the battle, but the hostile news media and hostile organizations will continue their attempts to push things toward frustration and skepticism, and we are aware of this. We are pleased when we hear highly qualified technical and technological bodies say through their media that Iraq cannot restore fuel to the Iraqi people in less than five years and at a cost of not less than $5-7 billion, and that international assistance in the form of equipment should be extended. Reoperating the refinery in five weeks without assistance and without paying billions gives an idea about the spirit of the citizen despite the difficult conditions under which the siege was imposed. This is a sign of confidence and victory.

[Al-Silawi] It is known that the aggression against Iraq was premeditated and lasted from 1986 until 1991 with the military battle, which ended, but the aggression did not. The United States and Western countries insist on pursuing the economic aggression against Iraq although the reasons for it no longer exist and are void. In light of all this, what is required from the Iraqi leadership?

[Ramadan] All these actions and this behavior have now convinced those who still had doubts about the U.S. and Zionist intentions. I think they are now convinced after seeing these actions and stands and after seeing the magnitude of the destruction by the U.S. Forces in Iraq, which has nothing to do with the issue of Kuwait. This is important, because it shows what their real intentions were. This is where the role of the Arab citizen comes to continue confronting the conspiracy. I would like to discuss the economic siege imposed on Iraq. It has not been sufficiently highlighted in the Arab media, or in statements or the stands of parties. It is being discussed in general terms. The right approach is to discuss seriously the economic siege at all official party and popular levels and this should be the main concern. The fighting

has ended. So why does the siege continue? What objective do they seek from the siege?

On the one hand, they claim they are concerned for human rights and that they are in northern Iraq to give assistance and food to some saboteurs. On the other hand, they are intentionally starving 18 million people and prevent Iraq from exporting what it must to import what it needs. That is why I believe that the most important task is to denounce the stands of the United States and the United Kingdom and the crimes they are committing. They oppose lifting the economic siege, which is the crux of the conspiracy. One should not discuss secondary issues. The U.S. presence in the north is meaningless, because we are tackling it with the flexibility that we should exercise at this stage. However, all these are simple results and components that will no longer exist once the question of the economic siege is settled. The basis is the siege. That is why we should speak about it and express our anger over it. One should continue to protest against it. U.S., British, and French Embassies in every country should be kept busy by always sending them demands and petitions through peaceful means that will convey to their respective administrations the Arab people's stand. This stand on the siege and starvation will deepen the hatred between our people and their people and not only the disagreement we have with them. That is why we should use every means to apply pressure on these criminal governments to make them lift the economic siege. Other matters will follow and will not be easy to settle.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. Vice President, within this context, in their capacity as countries friendly to the Arabs, what role must the Soviet Union, China, and nonaligned countries play to lift the siege on the Iraqi people?!

[Ramadan] The mother of battles must teach us lessons, not only to the leaderships but first to the citizens. You are duty-bound to convey these lessons. From now on, we should deal with matters as they really are. The Arab nation has no friends. I mean this in all its dimensions. The Arab nation has no friends. This, however, does not mean that it should not establish relations with the world. We should understand that relations are only dictated by interests, vary from one country to another, and can be established with all countries, from the United States to the last Third World country. The magnitude of the relations must attain our joint interests.

If these countries, such as China and the Soviet Union, had been determined to prevent the aggression, it would not have occurred. He who says that they were unable to do so, I think, is only trying to give excuses, because the Soviet Union practically signed the aggression decision. In view of what followed our acceptance of Resolution 660, the Soviet Union's role is close to the implementation of the U.S. plan. At any rate, the nation has no one but itself to defend its rights. The rights of our nation are daily usurped with regard to everything, land, sovereignty, and dignity. If the leader who sits on his throne and sees the Palestinian child being beaten by the soldier thinks that he is free and is the master and leader in his country, then he is very much deceived. This nation is humiliated daily; therefore, it must learn the lesson. The mother of battles is clear and has revealed everything.

Everyone finds in this Arab nation, which has its history and wealth, a threat to their interests. If it had been poor, there would not have been such conspiracy against it. This nation, however, has the largest number of hungry and needy people. So where is this wealth?

The Gulf paid $55 billion to the United States as a price for its aggression against Iraq. Mubarak, who was involved with them, went to Europe begging for the cancellation of a part of his debts. This gives us a picture of the extent of the treason of some rulers. Mubarak went to the European rulers, who were paid billions, asking them to cancel a part of his country's debts in exchange for the facilities and Arab cover he extended to them in the Cairo summit to strike Iraq. Despite this, they continue to refuse to cancel these debts. What is the value of life under such circumstances? We must work seriously to end them. Fifty million Arabs living in pride is better than 250 million, half of which are hungry, the dignity of the other half is humiliated, and one-tenth of them are agents paid by the foreigner to fragment the people and nation. With time, the nation will be faced with corruption, and fragmentation will be entrenched in its body until it reaches the incurable cancerous stage.

[Al-Silawi] Do you think there is hope for the reunification of Arab ranks?

[Ramadan] I pin my hopes on the Arab nation and the good people among the Arab leaders for the reunification of Arab ranks. But even the action of the good ones will not be sufficient unless they extend their hands to the people and energize all their capabilities to confront the aggression, whose economic and political aspects will continue. The good leaders must only depend on their people, then victory will be on their side, they will see the picture clear before them, and will know how to deal with the world. We are too disillusioned to ask for anything good from the United States, by the old means.

The prevailing circumstances do not urge Israel to give up an inch of land. The situation is difficult, and its rapid pace aims at reaping the negative side of the mother of battles to liquidate the Palestine question.

It is known that the United States does not impose on Israel anything it rejects. Israel deports Palestinians, and the United States expresses regret. Some Kurds participate in the aggression on the inside but flee outside, and the United States says our forces will remain until these Kurds return. There are no Security Council resolutions in this regard. Therefore, at this stage we practice flexibility in our political activity, which is useful as long as it does not lead to concessions on inalienable and legitimate rights.

On the other hand, the simple citizen understands why Iraq accepted this or that resolution. We stress the fact

that all that preoccupies our minds, as President Saddam's message on 28 February explained, is Palestine. We stress this fact.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. Vice President, it is known that you met His Majesty King Husayn in Amman. What were the major issues discussed during the meeting?

[Ramadan] We discussed bilateral relations, and we are more confident about the future of our cooperation and overcoming the difficulties we are facing. On the Arab level, we agree on the formula that was accepted at the recent Arab League meeting. We deal with the situation as it is, and our relations with this or that country are governed by its positions. We try to establish political cooperation with world countries to lessen the existing pressures. I am very pleased with my meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. It has been a while since I met any Jordanian officials. The last meeting was two days after the aggression when Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran visited Iraq. Therefore, I am pleased with his majesty's analysis, although this stage is not easy. What is important is that his majesty is confident, and confidence can overcome difficulties. This is an expression of national unity in Jordan, which is good for the government. In addition, lifting the economic siege on Iraq will open wider doors for cooperation with Jordan and other Arab states.

[Al-Silawi] It is well-known that a dispute arose between you and Iran regarding the Iraqi planes that found refuge in Iran during the aggression. How far have efforts gone to resolve this dispute?

[Ramadan] A meeting is expected soon between Iraqi and Iranian experts to find out the latest Iranian stand.

We should not have been fooled by the treacherous Iranian stand. This was precisely the stand we were hoping would not be demonstrated, because Iraq was busy confronting the aggression when the Iranians stabbed the country from the inside by agreeing and coordinating with the United States. They also sent sabotage elements into Iraq to steal military equipment and go off to Iran with it. They stole goods and sent them back to Iran.

This was not expected from an Islamic and neighboring country. It is totally hostile. They carried out many killings against all those they imprisoned, whether soldiers, civilians, or party members, only because they were Iraqis. Why did they do all this? We started new relations and exchanged visits with them. They claim to be against the Great Satan and on the side of Jerusalem. With the end result, it became clear that they were collaborating with them. At any rate, we know now there is no party in this world that likes the Arab nation or wants it to succeed. How can we expect Iran to like the Arab nation?

This is utterly impossible. We have a long history with Iran that shows it is not a friendly country. Nevertheless, we are attempting quietly to go along with them to find out their latest stand. There is mediation by friendly countries to find out their stand. They welcomed these planes and they must return them.

[Al-Silawi] But was there some sort of agreement with Iran before the aggression started that these planes would go there? And what about the number of planes?

[Ramadan] No. There was no agreement. But when we needed to, we told them that the planes would be sent over to them. The Iraqi planes that flew across were monitored and their number is known. Even the United States knows the number of these planes; their type and numbers are known to Iraq and to all the aggression countries.

[Al-Silawi] What are the characteristics of the coming stage in Iraq in terms of the announcement of the start of democratic life in Iraq?

[Ramadan] Fortunately, the subject of democracy has taken precedence over all these events. It gives a special meaning and nature to the coming stage. Efforts to develop formulas for daily life must continue, because they are the basic means to rise to a better standard of popular capabilities and potentials.

Within the next few weeks, we will complete the final touches of all the laws and regulations, which will then be presented to the people.

[Al-Silawi] Many sides have attempted to exploit the subject of the Kurds. What point have your talks with the Kurds reached?

[Ramadan] Dialogue is proceeding positively. Within days, everything will be finalized—all the dialogue that took place within the framework of the 11 March 1971 declaration and the 1974 charter on autonomy and within the framework of developing and strengthening them to realize national unity.

Bush's Mideast Disarmament Plan Draws Reaction

Conventional Arms Stressed

TA3005052391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 May 91

[Report by political affairs correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Israel will hold contacts with the Washington administration in a bid to begin joint action for stability and peace in the region. Jerusalem's reaction to President Bush's plan emphasizes that huge quantities of conventional weapons have been amassed by countries of the region. These weapons provide a potential means of destruction and ruin, and they demand immediate attention, Jerusalem sources said this morning.

What about Bush's call to stop the production of nuclear weapons in the Middle East? Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, replies: Israel's policy has always stated that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

Israel attributes great significance to the United States' efforts regarding the arms race in the region. Israel and the United States share a concern regarding the destructive potential in the region. To halt the arms race, Israel, immediately after the Gulf war, called for the convening of a conference, notes Pazner. Israel is ready to do its share for the success of that conference, sources in the prime minister's bureau promise this morning.

Defense Panel Chairman Responds

TA3005085591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 30 May 91

[Telephone interview with Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, by Razi Barqay on the "It Is All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar.

[Ben-Elisar] Good morning to you.

[Barqay] Let us discuss the new nuclear order that President Bush wants to introduce in our region.

[Ben-Elisar] I hope it does not suffer the fate of the new political order in the Middle East which he had discussed earlier.

[Barqay] You have read the clauses of his proposal. Are there any points about which Israel should or is supposed to express reservations?

[Ben-Elisar] First, there is something very fundamental: The Middle East is literally immersed, drowning in an ocean of weapons, most of which were supplied by the superpowers—the USSR, the United States, France, England, and China. The fact that these countries are the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is no coincidence, because they are, so to speak, in charge of world peace. Naturally, other countries have also supplied weapons, technology, and so forth.

Thus, when the U.S. President speaks of a desire, an aspiration to disarm the region, while representing one of the Middle East's largest arms suppliers—and let us not forget the gigantic deals worth billions of dollars with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and other countries....

[Barqay, interrupting] Then Israel should concur unreservedly?

[Ben-Elisar] Israel should, first and foremost, insist on its basic principles. Were it possible, the first step should be an agreement between the superpowers, the weapon suppliers, that the Middle East already has enough weapons and that there is no need to sell or supply any more. This would be the best start. In other words, I am appealing to the U.S. President to start by introducing a new order not in the Middle East, but among the weapons suppliers, who should stop selling weapons to the Middle East, who should stop exporting their unemployment to us.

[Barqay] With your permission, let us now refer to the so-called foreign sources; this expression is part of our jargon when referring to a certain issue. Well, the Arabs may come to President Bush and say: Hey, what's going on? Israel already has nuclear weapons, while we do not. How then do you expect us to freeze the situation, when Israel has an edge on us?

[Ben-Elisar] Your remarks reflect the precise nature of the difficulties nations have always had on the path to disarmament. Disarmament never began before some sort of a political agreement was achieved. Never. By the way, there have been very few cases of disarmament. Both between the world wars and after World War II, for instance, the world failed to attain such an agreement. It is only recently that the United States and the Soviet Union have been successful, and even that was only after they reached political accords first. There will be no disarmament without political accords; in fact, there will be none without peace in the Middle East.

[Barqay] Does Israel adhere to its traditional statement that it will not be the first to introduce that weapon to the Middle East?

[Ben-Elisar] It is no mere statement; it is a policy. This is patently Israel's line. Why do you say—that weapon? We will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East: This is a fact; it is our policy.

[Barqay] Referring again to foreign sources, will Israel agree to remove such weapons from its territory, for instance, if international supervisors discover that it has such a thing?

[Ben-Elisar] I do not wish to speak about the State of Israel. Why should I speak about the State of Israel? Why should I again start with the State of Israel? We are always required to be the first to make concessions. Why should it always be us, when no effort is being made to

establish peace? Have I threatened Iraq? Am I threatening Syria? Do I covet parts of Syria? Do I doubt Syria's right to exist as a sovereign state? Did I want to conquer Kuwait? Is the State of Israel the one with expansionist ambitions, or are the Arabs?

[Barqay] Then the political path you propose is to start with the easy part, and to move on to the tough things later. You propose to start with conventional weapons; to freeze the supply of ground-to-ground missiles, for instance, and of other sophisticated arms; and to leave the nuclear issue to the end.

[Ben-Elisar] I suggest beginning at the beginning. Nothing—and certainly not international processes—can begin at the end. The process must be launched with a political agreement, with a desire for a political thaw. As a matter of fact, this is what happened with the superpowers, which began by achieving a thaw—they called it detente. They ended the cold war, and this is what should happen here; the cold war should end, as should the boycott, the excommunication, and the hatred reflected in the UN votes. This should be followed by political agreements. However, the major arms suppliers should in the meantime agree to stop supplying weapons to the Middle East. If necessary, this step can include the State of Israel. This can begin with assault weapons and the technology that makes independent manufacturing of nonconventional weapons possible. This can happen in parallel with the quest for political and other accords.

[Barqay] Thank you very much.

[Ben-Elisar] A good morning to you.

Newspapers Review Proposal

TA3005103491

[Editorial Report] The major Israeli dailies carry in their 30 May editions commentaries and editorials on U.S. President George Bush's new initiative to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and to reduce the flow of conventional arms to the region.

All papers assess the potential advantages and drawbacks of the U.S. proposal from the Israeli point of view, with most of them opining that it is regrettable that the United States did not see fit to coordinate its proposal with Israel or to consult with the countries in the area before coming out with its plan.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in its page 4 editorial entitled "Bush's Arms Plan" notes the fierce domestic and international pressures President Bush will have to face in attempting to convince foreign governments and the U.S. arms industry to curtail the extremely profitable business of weapons exporting. It points out that "every arms-producing nation on earth—not only the Big Five but all those able and eager to take up the slack—would have to be threatened with economic reprisals if they are to toe the line." THE JERUSALEM POST adds: "Not every nation is vulnerable to American sanctions. One wonders what the U.S. can do about, say, North Korean missile sales to Syria." The POST concludes: "As long as totalitarian, violence-prone regimes like Hafiz al-Asad's in Syria, Saddam Husayn's in Iraq, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's in Libya, and even feudal oligarchies like Saudi Arabia's continue to dominate the Arab world, efforts to curb the arms race and bring lasting peace are doomed to ignominious failure."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page A1 commentary by Asher Yaniv entitled "Bush Has Made Some Difficult Demands" recounts that the last time there was a concerted international attempt to impose controls on the type and quantity of weapons reaching the Middle East—by the United States, Britain, and France in 1950—it resulted in drawing the Soviet Union into the region and an exacerbation of the arms race. HA'ARETZ states that Bush's proposal is at once advantageous and dangerous for Israel. The commentary asserts that "if the arms race can be stopped, while the existing balance of power remains the same, Israel's qualitative edge will be maintained and the political process will probably gain momentum." On the downside, HA'ARETZ notes that the proposal contains some extremely difficult demands, including demands to sign an accord on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and an agreement to halt the development of surface-to-surface missiles and eventually to destroy them. HA'ARETZ points out: "On one hand Israel has supported the idea of a nuclear-free Middle East for many years, but, on the other hand, it has so far refused to sign the agreement calling for the nonproliferation of such weaponry, which would mean giving supervisory teams from the International Atomic Energy Agency free access to its various nuclear installations."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew in an editorial on page 2 by Avi'ezer Golan entitled "Bush's Plan Gets on the Road" criticizes the plan for being "dangerous—mainly because it was clearly put together hastily without any prior coordination with the countries in the region." Another glaring drawback, the editorial claims, is "the lack of a convincing answer to the question of who will supervise the process of dismantling the arms." It questions the capacity of the Security Council to do so because the five permanent members of the Security Council are also the world's major arms exporters, who are responsible for most of the weapons being in the region in the first place. YEDI'OT AHARONOT asks if "Israel would be willing to let the cats guard the cream and to place its security in their hands."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew in a page A3 commentary by 'Amos Gilbo'a entitled "A Threatening Stick" writes: "The implications of the Bush initiative for Israel exist on two levels: One level comprises the sphere of Israeli-U.S. relations, and the second level includes fundamental security issues. Bush published his initiative without any prior consultations on the senior level between the two countries.

"Does that mean that the Americans could care less about our opinions? Does that mean the Americans are

waving a threatening stick over our heads on such a sensitive security issue?" MA'ARIV states: "The U.S. initiative includes several elements that are very negative for Israel:

"—The major military threat posed to Israel by the Arab world comes from their conventional forces.

"—Israel's nuclear capability, assuming that it exists, counterbalances that Arab advantage.

"—The Bush initiative tilts the strategical balance in the Arab's favor."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew presents a rosier view of the initiative in a page 7 editorial entitled "An End to Weapons of Mass Destruction." The editorial notes the need to free the region of the dangers posed by the nonconventional weapons possessed by the Middle Eastern countries, a danger that threatened to materialize during the recent Gulf War. 'AL HAMISHMAR admits the inherent difficulties and the undeniably long road ahead in reaching any agreement on arms limitations but remains optimistic: "The fulfillment of the dream of a farewell to arms is still a distant vision, but in order to draw closer to it, everything must be done to reach accords on security and peace, which will ease the sense of constant danger endemic to the countries of the region and their residents, and which will increase their sense of security without massive investments in all possible forms of weapons of destruction."

Arens, Cheney Agree on Arrow Missile, F-15's

TA3005104091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 May 91

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney was greeted this morning at the Qirya IDF [Israel Defense Forces] compound in Tel Aviv with a full-fledged military ceremony. The ceremony was followed by deliberations with the top echelon of the Defense Ministry and the IDF. The talks were highlighted by an agreement on the continued development of the Arrow missile. Our military correspondent Amir Fink reports:

[Begin recording] [Fink] At the end of a meeting, which lasted two and a half hours, the two ministers addressed the media. Both described their talk as very good. Secretary Cheney reiterated that he was very glad to be back in Israel.

The ministers presented two main agreements: on sharing the funding of the Arrow project, and on the supply 10 F-15A and F-15B aircraft from U.S. Army surpluses. Each plane costs $65 million.

[Arens, in English] We did discuss the possibility of what is referred to as drawdown from U.S. supplies that might include F-15 aircraft, and we've got some initial agreements on some of what might be done. We have discussed the Arrow program. I am glad to say that Secretary Cheney has confirmed that as part of the Strategic Development Initiative, the second phase of the Arrow program will be supported on the basis of 72 percent U.S. support and 28 percent Israeli support.

[Fink translates the above and continues] An agreement that Arrow-related technology would not be transferred by Israel to other elements had been reached not too long ago. [passage omitted]

Minister Arens also referred to President Bush's program about nonconventional disarmament in the Middle East, which was presented yesterday.

[Arens, in English] We have discussed the initiative, and we will continue to discuss it. We're going to study very closely the President's initiative. Basically, of course, we are very strong supporters of arms control in the area. We have been the major victims of the lack of arms control, and we will continue to hold further discussions on the subject. [Fink translates the above] [end recording]

Levi Links Peace Process to Syrian Jews

TA2905112591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has disclosed that a U.S. figure will soon confer with the Syrians in a bid to persuade them to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate. Minister Levi said that there can be no talk of a peace process while Syrian Jews are being held hostage.

Addressing himself to President al-Asad, Levi said that holding on to the Jews does not do him honor. He added that he hoped wisdom would prevail and that al-Asad would let them emigrate to Israel. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Minister Levi made those remarks during a visit to the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem, which is being used as an absorption center for Ethiopian Jews, with former U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz.

Knesset Rejects Proposal on Meetings With PLO

TA2905172491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Knesset this afternoon rejected a proposal by Shinuy's Amnon Rubinstein allowing meetings with PLO officials, if such meetings did not harm state security. Justice Minister Dan Meridor called on the Knesset to vote the proposal down because he said it was made under pressure by the hunger strike of Abie Natan and could create a dangerous precedent.

Official Denies Asylum Granted to Ethiopians

TA2905105491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 29 May

[Excerpts] The director general of the Foreign Ministry [as heard], Re'uven Merhav, has denied reports that Israel is providing political asylum to Kassa Kabedde

and other senior aides of the ousted Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Do you think that the reports that Israel granted political asylum to these people will make it more difficult for the Israeli Government to deal with the new government in Addis Ababa and also to secure the evacuation of the remaining Jews from Ethiopia?

[Merhav] We did not—and I declared this very, very clearly this morning, and the ministry has issued a statement to that effect—we have not granted any political asylum. There may be Ethiopian individuals in this country in transit or in residence, having legal documents, and this is the only status of which I know. All the other stories of political asylum or anything else—as you may remember there was also a story that a planeload of officials came on the last batch—this is utterly not true and I take this opportunity to refute this completely. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit

TA2905153991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister Thomas Klestil arrived in Israel today. Klestin is the most senior Austrian official to visit Israel since Kurt Waldheim was elected president five years ago.

PLO's Qaddumi Meets Foreign Minister al-Masri

U.S. 'Double Standard' Decried

JN2905131591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today received a PLO delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, that included Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, and Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member.

Following the meeting, al-Masri informed journalists that the Palestinian delegation briefed him on the outcome of its talks with Syrian officials. The foreign minister stressed that there is common ground between Jordan, Syria, and the PLO on many issues related to the political settlement of the Middle East crisis.

For his part, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, made a statement to journalists in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] Each time we hold political contacts, we coordinate these positions with our brothers in Jordan, as we have done with our brothers in Syria. We have repeatedly said that the objective is to find a unified Arab position on what is taking place in the region with regard to the political settlement. We continue these efforts in order to strengthen the Arab position to face the Israeli intransigence.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the next step within the Palestinian movement?

[Qaddumi] Continuing efforts to reach this Arab position. After that, we must also strengthen the Arab position through the support of other countries, particularly the European countries. There must be an understanding by world public opinion that the Arab position facilitates the peace process and that Israel is in fact the one hindering the peace process.

The continuous Jewish emigration, whether from the Soviet Union or Ethiopia, which was regrettably facilitated by the United States, adds more obstacles before any peaceful efforts to settle the Middle East crisis. We are concerned that the Security Council discuss this issue, because it is the international party concerned with establishing peace in all areas of the world, including the Middle East. We call for the discussion of the issue of settlements and emigration within the Security Council in order to emphasize its earlier resolutions on stopping settlement, removing existing settlements, and also with regard to emigration, since it presents new obstacles. The Security Council, which dealt with the Gulf crisis firmly, and the United States, which used the United Nations as a means to practice pressure and regrettable aggression against Iraq, must not apply a double standard policy. We would like to show the world that the United States, regrettably, is still biased and pursues a double standard policy. [end recording]

Talks With Syrians Reviewed

JN2905170991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1538 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] Amman, 29 May (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received in his office at the Foreign Ministry today the PLO delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments and the the political efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They also discussed the results of the PLO delegation's visit to Syria.

The meeting was attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al- Najjab, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestine's ambassador in Amman.

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri told reporters that the PLO delegation informed him of the results of their talks with Syrian officials. He affirmed that there is common ground between Jordan, the PLO, and Syria on many topics dealing with the political settlement of the Middle East crisis, foremost being that this settlement be based on implementing international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions on this issue.

He said the Jordanian and Palestinian sides agreed to keep up their contacts.

He added that we in Jordan still want U.S. efforts to progress and efforts in general to continue to convene a peace conference. He affirmed that Israeli belligerence is what hampers these efforts.

He said that Jordan welcomes the convention of a joint meeting of the Arab parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, if these sides agree on convening such a meeting.

For his part, Faruq Qaddumi affirmed that Israel's belligerence is what obstructs U.S. efforts.

After meeting with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Qaddumi said that our demand is clear: It is represented in a Palestinian state and total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the city of Jerusalem, as well as total removal of all settlements.

He added that if evidence is provided on reaching a just solution to the Palestine question and establishing an independent Palestinian state, then all other issues will become easy. He said these issues were discussed with the brothers in Syria and Jordan because these were issues decided upon in the Arab summits during which resolutions were made which all Arab sides are committed to.

Mr. Qaddumi said U.S. efforts have so far centered on measures and procedural issues and have not yet discussed the core. When the core of the matter is discussed, we will have a clear response regarding this issue. [passage omitted]

Mr. Qaddumi said efforts continue to convene the five-party meeting of the Arab confrontation states. We discussed this issue with the Arab League Secretariat. It is important for the Arab League to be the tool uniting Arab positions and eliminating the gap created by the Gulf crisis. He added that the latest Arab League meeting was the start for clearing the Arab atmosphere based on objective foundations that serve pan-Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on the Palestinian delegation's visit to Syria, Mr. Qaddumi said his talks with Syrian officials were successful and positive, and that the opinions of the two sides were identical regarding the peace process, including the role of the United Nations in any settlement, in addition to the need to continue efforts to convene the international peace conference and the need to obtain guarantees on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, the subject of Jerusalem, and the removal of the Israeli settlements.

Iraq To Pay $40 Million for Past Exports

JN2705075591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 May 91 p 1

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Text] The Iraqi Ministry of Trade has informed the Amman Chamber of Industry of an Iraqi cabinet decision approving the payment of $40 million to Jordanian industrialists who had exported products and commodities to Iraq in past years (prior to 1989) within the trade protocol between the two countries.

Jordanian industrial institutions and industrialists had exported industrial commodities to Iraq exceeding the ceiling specified in the protocol. This prompted the Iraqi Government then to withhold payment of the sums in excess of the ceiling to the Jordanian exporters, which were paid through the Central Bank of Jordan in implementation of an agreement with the Iraqi authorities.

Since then, the Amman Chamber of Industry has been exerting all possible efforts with the proper Iraqi authorities to secure payment of the sums for these exports, which amount to $84 million. Moreover, the responsible authorities in Jordan have been discussing this issue with Iraq since April 1988.

The Iraqi ministry informed the Amman Chamber of Industry that the remaining amount, $44 million, would be paid to the Jordanian industrialists soon.

Israeli Behavior in Territories Under UN Review

JN2805193091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] Amman, 28 May (PETRA)—Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, general director of the Palestinian Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry, met today with the head and members of the UN fact-finding mission on Israel's violations of human rights in the Arab occupied territories. He reviewed the repressive measures of the Israeli occupation authorities in violation of the rights of the Palestinian individual in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He pointed out the daily escalating pressures on Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories and their repression, which contradict all international norms and charters, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, which protects the rights of civilians under occupation.

Dr. Qatanani expressed his fears that Israel would persist in such policies due to the fact that the international community, which witnesses these practices daily, does not lift a finger to stop them. [passage omitted]

Iranian Official Calls Hostage Release 'Imminent'

NC2905210291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] REUTER has quoted Iranian officials as saying that Tehran expects the Western hostages in Lebanon to be released soon. The sources added that Tehran doubts, however, that the release of the hostages will lead to a rapid restoration of its ties with Washington.

'Abbas Maleki, Iranian deputy foreign minister, told REUTER: The hostage game has ended and it is probable that their entire ordeal will end.

He said that he expects some moves to be made in this connection. He asserted that the release of the hostages is now imminent.

Maleki stressed that the restoration of Iranian-U.S. ties is not a priority issue for Iran, which is directing its efforts toward improving its relations with neighboring countries, such as Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Violation Causing 'Delay'

NC2905101591 Beirut Al-SHIRA' in Arabic 27 May 91 p 5

[Text] A well-informed source has affirmed that the delay in the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon does not have anything to do with negotiations seeking their release as part of an exchange of Lebanese and Palestinians held in Israeli prisons for Israelis held in Lebanon and the bodies of Israelis killed there.

The delay is instead due to the U.S. violation of an agreement with Iran which provided for the hostages' release in exchange for unfreezing Iranian financial assets worth $13 billion.

Under the agreement, Washington was to have released $650 million in exchange for the first American hostage. The U.S. Administration, however, preferred to delay the hostages' release for a few months, to ensure that the unfreezing of the $13 billion would not adversely affect the U.S. economy.

The source said that the issue is currently deadlocked, awaiting action on Washington's part to implement the signed agreement.

Government To 'Rehabilitate' 20,000 Militiamen

NC2905211991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 29 May 91

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers has decided to rehabilitate 20,000 civilian and military militia members, noting that this is the maximum number that will be rehabilitated. The rehabilitation will begin inside camps established for this purpose for 6,000 military personnel. The process will take anywhere from three to six months or longer, according to the rehabilitation requirements.

Information Minister Albert Mansur read a statement issued by the Council of Ministers to the effect that after the rehabilitation at these camps is completed, all citizens, including the rehabilitated militiamen, will be given the opportunity to volunteer for Army and police service. [passage omitted]

Speaking to reporters, Minister Mansur announced that the rehabilitation of the militia members will begin on 15 June. He pointed out that every individual joining a training camp will receive a salary just like any soldier in training. [passage omitted]

Israeli Movements, Attacks Reported in South

NC2905131591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Israel is continuing its provocations in the air and on the ground in the south. Enemy military vehicles were seen moving on the al-Qantarah-al-Tayyibah road, opposite a hill overlooking Qabrikha, this morning. Movement by the agent Lahd militia was also observed in Wadi al-Hujayr.

The occupation forces' warplanes have carried out reconnaissance flights over Lebanese territory, particularly in the south. Helicopters also flew over the Tyre area, Markaba, al-Tayyibah, and (Rubb Talatin).

The Bra'shit area came under sniper fire last night. After firing flares, the Israeli occupation forces in al-Zaffat directed 155-mm artillery fire at the 'Arab Salim area.

SLA Urges Move Against Treaty; Patrol Ambushed

NC3005103691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The Voice of South radio, mouthpiece of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], said today that the SLA in the border strip cannot abrogate the 22 May treaty between Lebanon and Syria on its own and urged the Lebanese people to recognize the treaty's risks and disadvantages and act to bring it down.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement said today that one of its groups ambushed an SLA patrol in Saff al-Hawa' town, killing one person and wounding others. SLA personnel subsequently searched the town and detained two members of the al-Jum'ah family.

Lebanese Forces Hands Over T-54 Tanks, Gunboat

NC2805162791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Forces has given the Lebanese Army five T- 54 tanks and a gunboat as a gift.

Reportage on Talks With Palestinian Delegation

Al-Asad, Delegates Discuss Peace

JN2805143991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the PLO delegation comprised of Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Sulayman al-Najjab. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended.

The conversation revolved around the conditions in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ideas proposed to launch a peace process based on the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Praises Talks Outcome

JN2805190491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received the PLO Executive Committee delegation, which included PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al- Zibri], and Sulayman al-Najjab. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

The Palestinian delegation arrived on Saturday [25 May] and held a series of talks with Syrian officials and Palestinian leaders who are present in the Syrian capital.

Following the meeting with President al-Asad, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said that the talks dealt with the situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ideas proposed to launch a peace process based on the UN resolutions.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told Radio Monte Carlo that the meeting with President al-Asad was comprehensive. The Palestinian delegation stressed that the two sides' positions were identical regarding several major issues, particularly on holding an international conference in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy, with the participation of all parties. 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized that Syrian and Palestinian policies are identical on all these issues, and that both sides agreed to resume consultation and coordination in the future.

'Abd-Rabbuh adds that a firm, progressive basis has been set to promote Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Ministry Denies Syria, PLO Reject Baker Plan

JN2905180891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 May 91

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] A responsible source at the Syrian Foreign Ministry has denied a report AFP attributed to PLO Executive Committee Member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], that Syria and the PLO reject U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to hold a conference for peace in the Middle East. The Syrian source also ruled out the possibility that any one of the Palestinian delegation members holding talks in Damascus had made such statement, especially since the Palestinian and Syrian sides agreed on the importance of holding a conference for peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

Parties Involved in Jewish Immigration Criticized

JN2605073791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH tackles Zionist immigration and the dangers that it poses. It refers to the grand conspiracy that Israel is hatching, and says that numerous world parties are participating in this conspiracy as well.

The paper adds: What is more serious than all this is that the party which advocates and works to secure the attainment of a just and comprehensive regional peace, and which sometimes condemns the building of settlements, is behind these Jewish immigration operations.

AL-BA'TH wonders: Why does this pursuit have double standards? The world today, as is clear to everybody, has no secrets. Moreover, the one who encourages Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine is directly contributing to the settlement of the occupied Arab territories. This means that he is working against the presumed desire for a just and comprehensive peace. Yesterday, it was officially announced that through coordination among Israel, the Ethiopian Government, and many other world parties, some 18,000 Falasha Jews were airlifted to occupied Palestine. If this shows anything, it shows that the scheme to Judaize the occupied Arab territories goes hand in hand with the scheme to expel Arabs from their lands. The airlift of the Falashas coincided with the expulsion of a new group of Arabs. All of this that is taking place has failed to prompt the world to do anything. Therefore, because of the way things stand, the Arabs should take action to safeguard their existence and protect their future generations.

Afghanistan

Najibollah on Peace Policy

LD2805224691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1630 GMT 28 May 91

[Speech by President Najibollah at closing session of the Meli Shura in Kabul on 28 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Respected members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan: In accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the sixth Meli Shura session of the Republic of Afghanistan ends in the first week of Jowza [28 May]. The Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan is ending its sixth session in such conditions that new developments concerning the political solution of the question of Afghanistan have come about.

The Meli Shura has accomplished its part in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and has taken necessary measures concerning very important social, economic, and political issues of the country.

Respected Meli Shura members; in the course of the current session 30 plenary sessions of the Wolasi Jerga [the lower house], 37 plenary sessions of the Senate, and 3 joint sessions of both houses are indicative of the fact that qualitative work has been accomplished. In the course of its plenary session, the Wolasi Jerga of the Republic of Afghanistan heard and approved the report of the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Khaleqyar concerning the accomplishments of the government. This fact displays the existence of cooperation and all-round relations between the Meli Shura and the government. Also various Meli Shura commissions have assessed and taken necessary decisions on a variety of dimensions of life and issues in the course of their meetings. During this period the parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan has approved nine legislative projects and has passed 13 laws and other legislative documents compatible with the present situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. The socio-economic development plan of the Republic of Afghanistan and the 1370 [90-91] budget are included in these decisions.

Respected delegates and senators: During recent months you have witnessed a series of events in the country. On the one hand the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has concentrated its efforts, within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, on the issues of searching for a peaceful and political solution. Regrettably, however, on the other hand during recent months the extremist opposition has continued the war and has intensified its attacks in some provinces of the country. The attack on Khowst by the extremists with the direct support of the Pakistani militarists is a clear example of the pursuance of the military path by the extremists. Based on profoundly assessing the situation in the country and on the basis of precise information that has been obtained concerning the networks of miliary activities, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken a series of measures. The armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan carried out successful mopping up operations in Tangi Waghjan, Lowgar Province, and seized very large caches of weapons and ammunition belonging to the opposition. As a result of carrying out these preventative operations, the opposition is faced with serious obstacles from the view point of supplies and intensifying combat operation in Lowgar province and around Kabul. Mopping operations around Gardeyz were successfully carried out and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized. The Kabul-Gardeyz highway was completely activated and a large supply convoy was taken to Ghazni via Gardeyz. To prevent extremist attacks on Ghazni city, mopping up and preventative operations were organized and carried out. Helmand Province was supplied and strengthened by way of Herat-Torghundi. Also defensive measures in Qandahar province were enhanced from the viewpoint of personnel and ammunition supplies.

Preventative military measures in Herat led to the fact that the life of the people of Zindajan was protected against the attacks of the armed extremist groups. In some areas of the north appropriate military measures have been taken to prevent destructive activities of the extremists. If we analyzed the measures of the Republic of Afghanistan as a whole, over recent months, it could be seen that as a result of those measures the economic blockade of a number of provinces and the blocking of highways has been prevented. Combat operations of the extremist opposition which resulted in the death and the killing of the people of those provinces had been halted and faced total defeat.

Dear deputies, along with the intensification of military operations by the extremists in the aforementioned areas, some new developments can be seen in the process of the political solution of th Afghan problem. National reconciliation and those proposals which have been presented within the framework of that policy have now become the foundation of the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem. Continuing efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan, our negotiations with the representatives of the opposition at various levels and times, and our diplomatic activities for the explanation of the political solution's mechanism and means for such a solution all caused the UN secretary general to escalate his efforts in this respect. As you know the UN secretary general issued a statement on Afghanistan on 21 May 1991 and put forward a five-point proposal. Before explaining some parts of the proposal, with pleasure and approval I would like to note the UN secretary general's statement that war should be ended through the Afghan political process without foreign interference. This is totally compatible with the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, that is, that war is not the means to solve the problems and that the Afghans can and should put an end to the miseries of their people through coming close to one another.

I was commenting a while ago with Mr. Abawi and Mr. Habibi [Senate chairman] that 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, are not much time in the life of a nation, especially since the implementation of great policies those years are small. But you saw that the consistent pursuit of a rational policy—with patience, with stoicism, and with a sensible attitude [words indistinct] that we see that they get closer to conclusions and their fruit is being gathered. I always said that: God is with those who have patience [last phrase in Arabic]. God is with one who pursues his policy—his course—with stoicism, patience, and perseverance. You see that today the UN secretary general issued a statement along the lines of your policies. This statement is being approved by the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union. Iran's stance is positive. Even Pakistan has been obliged to approve this statement. You see the other side becomes imbalanced.

I called on the opposition four years ago. If they had accepted this path four years ago, they might have obtained many things inat the interest of their [word indistinct]. But they made it late. What did they obtain as a result of these four years? Nothing has been achieved except destruction, fratricide among Muslims, and Afghanicide. I have said this before. Now, once again, from this stage where you representatives of the nation are present, I call on them not to delay. Six months later you are to come and sit with me around this table. Why and for what should the blood of innocent people and civilians be shed? If you have to come to the negotiations table tomorrow, why don't you do it today? I told you again and again that our path is righteous and Almighty God is on the side of righteousness. God willing, now there is no doubt that those who pursue war and sought their interests in war and took positions against peace—those who stood against the interests of the people of Afghanistan—they may intensify their activities. But it is obvious to all that the true process which will yield results is toward peace. Let them intensify their activities. Although I asked them too, to think clearly—otherwise they will be isolated and [words indistinct]—you will see—let us mark this place. However, if they still embark upon intensified actions, I assure you that the armed forces and the people of Afghanistan have the courage and honor to prevent the sinister aims, conspiracies, and intrigues from being implemented here. We are completely ready to neutralize all of them.

As last night you heard my words through the mass media, the Republic of Afghanistan, as the first supporter of the UN plan, believes that general principles toward the politico-peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan have been put forward by the UN secretary general and provide a (?suitable) opportunity to all Afghan political forces so that, through pursuing these principles and participating in the realization of its contents, these big problems of the Afghans will be jointly resolved.

I have told you this and once again I tell you that we have not been through such a difficult period in the course of history. We have faced invaders and aggressors in various periods. From Alexander the Great, to Halagu, to the Moghuls, and to the British—but in all these periods, if you look at them, the Afghan nation was united. The present period is difficult in that, unfortunately Afghanistan in practice broke into pieces in the person of its people when the responsibility of this heavy burden was trust on our shoulders. A part of the people were in Afghanistan, a part in Pakistan, a part in Iran, a part in Europe—and here too in Afghanistan one part is under our sovereignty and a part is with the opposition. When the people are divided then it is [word indistinct], the soil also become divided. So the most important thing I would like to say that we must prepare ourselves—trample under foot our limited partisan, strata, political, ideological, local, regional, and circle interests—bring before us the great slogan of restoring the unity of the Afghan nation. [applause]

Therefore to pursue this great goal—the great policy—as Khushal Khan [Pashto poet-leader] says:

In a great sea float as much as you can, in a canal I see the death of the whale. I dove in many large seas and swam in them to get the broken ship of the people of Afghanistan ashore and to its destination, God willing. I think that we have got closer to this shore. Because our intentions were pure, our will was clean, our wish was to bring together the Afghan nation. I gave reassurances that we will do anything we can, be sure we will spare nothing. Despite the fact that we are getting closer to victory our policies reach for victory, we should have become arrogant, but you see that with so much humility and with so much open-mindedness, we call on all of them that come, we are in your service, we are your servants, so that this nation will become united and the historic dignity of Afghanistan—it is said that when one's turban falls from the head but remains on the shoulder it has not fallen [turbans for Afghans are a sign of dignity, and its fall from the head is an insult and humiliation; in this case it means that as long as the turban has not fallen to ground dignity is intact]. So we should take the turban from the shoulder of Afghanistan and place it on her head so that dignity is restored [applause].

With the issuing of the statement of the UN secretary general, the people of Afghanistan cordially welcomed this proposal as the preface to a political and peaceful solution cessation of the war. By the same token so far some organizations, armed oposition commanders, some political and social personalities inside and outside the country have approved the proposal of the UN secretary general. As you know there are some, who not only have not put forward a realistic proposal, but are still caught by the claws of their previous inclinations and take differing stances with contradictory statements. With such statements they negate our society's present realities and other sides. They are never in compliance with our suffering people's interests and wishes. Some reckon on a military solution, which has no result but the suffering and killing of our people. The people of

Afghanistan reckon on this: Now that the whole world has agreed that the Afghan problem should be resolved politically; and there are a group of people who are brandishing their knives at the people of Afghanistan threatening to cut their heads off. You can judge for yourself how the people of Afghanistan will settle accounts with them in the future. [indistinct voice from the floor; Najib replies] That's it. When you are beheading them with a knife—when one is condemned in terms of history one is beheaded for good. Yet some others are in a passive and watching position. We hope they will review their conservative position and take an active national and Afghan part at this critical stage. The people of Afghanistan will make a judgement now they have awaken. They have obtained this awakening as a result of many sacrifices. Afghans will be saying when missiles fall on him—high prices, hunger, thirst, hardships, the tears of the orphans, black chadors of widows—and you were sitting in Europe, and despite the fact that we tell you to move to this side; tomorrow you will have put forward a box and will be asking him to give you the vote. I again call on them in your presence. They hear my voice. Very respectfully I tell them that some are still in a passive and watching position; we want them to review their conservative stance and take their active national and Afghan and historic part in this critical stage of the country.

Some others want to delegate the authority of the realization and implementation of the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, which is only and only the right and authority of the people of Afghanistan and which is clearly emphasized in the statement of the UN secretary general to non-Afghan forces. All the accusation against us was that this party brought in the Soviet Union. We ejected the Soviet Union from here. Now they keep telling the Soviet Union to tell Najib to step down so that we capture his position. And I tell them give this authority to the people of Afghanistan. Let them have this authority. The United States and the Soviet Union keep saying this. Even Pakistan now says this. Iran clearly said that they should leave the Afghans to determine their fate with their hands without foreign interference. They keep on saying, sir—of what they were accusing us of yesterday—leave the government to us. It is only the authority of the people of Afghanistan. Do you representatives of the nation want to delegate this authority to someone else. [comments from the audience].

As the Republic of Afghanistan has said many times, once again we express the view that foreign factors should not replace internal factors or the other way around. We seriously believe that only the people of Afghanistan have the right to determine their fate, government and socio-economic system. It is a pleasure that now a suitable time has come about for our people to express their will and we are proud of it. It is a Pashto proverb that says that the dish of arrogance spilled. We, blessed, eventually brought them to kneel before the people of Afghanistan and to give this authority to the people of Afghanistan in order that they be sovereign of their fate. There is no greater historic honor than this that we attained. This position is not eternal, I tell you. Which king, which ruler has had it forever [applause]. But the important thing is, when one tries under those historic circumstance, to face all kinds of hardships and problems and to acquire historic spirituality. It will be a great honor for us to bring all the arrogant ones to the door of the people of Afghanistan begging for their vote. No matter whether or not they give us their vote, we will have done so much that they will come to us after having thrown their guns away; they will stand at the door of the people, which is the real door. Knock at it. Do not knock on other doors. [applause] In this respect, basic national interests of Afghanistan make demands upon all parties, organizations, and formations to have a responsible attitude toward the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty regardless of their limited party, formational, organization, and other interests. No doubt everyone knows that first steps have been taken toward peace and with the passage of every day we get closer to peace, God willing. In such a case why should not we start joint efforts for reaching this humane aim—start it right from this minute and from this moment? Why should we allow further blood of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to be spilled. Should we have been able to end war and the bloodshed one day earlier we would have done a great service to our people—one day earlier. If peace is restored tomorrow and we restore it today, there would not be a greater service to the people.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned we have opened up our course in pursuit of this great national demand, in line with the exegesis of the sacred religion of Islam and in keeping with the traditions of the people of Afghanistan.

Once again we call on all parties, organizations, and social and political personalities inside and outside the country to think responsibly, regardless of party, organizational, political, and factional links, about a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, and bravely take steps to ensure peace and the cessation of war. As you know, a number of the extremists opposed any kind political solution of the county's problem. Now, too, they have not accepted the proposal of the UN secretary general. They try to create obstacles in the way of a political and peaceful solution of the problem in the country and hinder the growth of this movement by military pressure in various areas. As they have previously prevented antinational conspiracies and plots by the extremists, the armed forces of the country will in future too, with all their strength, stand against the extremists' attacks and subversion and will put up a defense.

While we all welcome recent developments toward a political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, we are preparing all necessary facilities for the implementation of those developments as well. By no means

will we allow supporters of a military solution to impose the continuation of war on our people.

Dear deputies and senators, we are not sparing any effort to reach a comprehensive agreement to put an end to war and to restore peace. As you heard last night, in order to welcome the UN secretary general's statement we proposed a cease-fire, provided the opponents agree, and expressed our readiness for an immediate start to negotiations with the parties involved where ever they wish. Similarly, we proposed to leaders and personalities of the world to make peace-seeking efforts as mediators, to arrange negotiations between the sides. The Republic of Afghanistan has prepared all necessary facilities and warmly welcomes their peace-seeking efforts.

Dear friends, during the sixth round of the Meli Shura, 11 people became members of parliament. We say congratulations to them and wish them success from God. In line with Article 79 of the Constitution, two people are appointed to the senate for three years. Therefore, with the expiry of that fixed period, the membership of 64 people in the Meli Shura reaches its end. I consider it necessary to express my gratitude for their peace-seeking work and activities, for their valuable experience and benevolent acts, and wish them more successes from God [applause]. During the sixth session of the Meli Shura esteemed Rahman Berdi, deputy from Ward 66 of Balkh Province passed away. I offer the sympathy of the Republic of Afghanistan to relatives of the late person, and ask God to bless him.

Dear deputies and senators, we look with gratitude at the fruitful work and activity of the parliament and of every member. I hope that during the recession of Meli Shura members will conduct useful work during their socializing and contacts in their constituencies, for the restoration of peace and the cessation of war. Allow me, in line with Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, to declare the end of the sixth regular round of the Meli Shura and wish every one of you health and success in your duties. Success comes from God. [applause]

India

Rao Unanimously Elected Congress-I President

BK2905123691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has been unanimously elected the Congress-I president. The decision to this effect was taken by the party's working committee which met in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat presided over the meeting. Mr. Arjun Singh proposed the name of Mr. Narasimha Rao and it was seconded by Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mr. Jagannath Pahadia. All the members of the working committee and seven chief ministers of the party attended today's meeting.

Criticizes BJP, National Front

BK2905161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has been unanimously elected president of the Congress-I. According to the party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the working committee decision is provisional and is to be ratified by the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] within six months. He said the leader of the Congress-I parliamentary party will be elected as per convention after the polls.

Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat chaired the working committee meeting held at the party headquarters in New Delhi this afternoon. Mr. Arjun Singh proposed Mr. Rao's name while it was seconded by Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mr. Jagannath Pahadia.

Mr. Mukherjee told a news conference, there is no infighting in the party. He said if there had been any dissentions, it would have been reflected in the working committee decision. He said all Congress-I chief ministers attended the CWC [Congress Working Committee] meeting as special invitees. He said the meeting adopted a resolution expressing confidence that Mrs. Sonia Gandhi will provide constant guidance to the party. The party spokesman said that the decision on sending Mrs. Sonia Gandhi for the Amethi Lok Sabha seat in case of a by-election will be taken up at the appropriate time. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that the Congress-I is contesting the polls on issues like stability and progress.

In a statement after his election, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the need of the hour is a stable and strong government and claimed that only the Congress-I can provide it. He criticized the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for, what he called, institutionalizing communal hatred and the National Front for using casteism for political ends.

Born at Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh, on 28 June 1921, Mr. Narasimha Rao was elected to the state assembly for the first time in 1957 and continued to be its member for the next 20 years. He held several portfolios in Andhra Pradesh before becoming the chief minister in 1971. He joined the union cabinet in January 1980 and held the portfolios of external affairs, home, defense, and human resource development in the governments of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Welcoming Mr. Narasimha Rao's election, the president of the Samajwadi Janata Party, Mr. Devi Lal, expressed the hope that under his leadership, the Congress-I will make full contribution to the strengthening of the secular, socialistic, and democratic polity.

New Lok Sabha To Be Constituted by 20 June

BK2905163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The new Lok Sabha is to be constituted by the 20th of next month. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique issued in New Delhi today says the

president has concurred with the advice of the election commission for rescheduling poll dates because of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

Under the revised election schedule, the election process, except in Punjab, will be completed by the 18th of next month.

Earlier, the new Lok Sabha was scheduled to be constituted by the 5th of next month and the election process to the Lok Sabha completed before the 31st of this month.

Minister: Law, Order Situation 'Satisfactory'

BK2905131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has said that the overall law and order situation in the country is satisfactory. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said that the Home Ministry today reviewed the reports from the states. He said no incident of violence during the immersion ceremonies of the ashes of Rajiv Gandhi has come to the notice of the government from any part of the country. The meeting was attended, among others, by the home secretary and heads of central police organizations.

Replying to questions by newsmen, the home minister said that the Special Investigating Team [SIT] which is camping at Madras is looking into the incident from various angles. He said the primary job before the SIT is to identify the woman who was used as a human bomb. Mr. Subodh Kant said nothing can be said at this stage about the involvement of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

Senior BJP Leader Shot Dead by Militants

BK3005080091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] In Chandigarh, a senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne militants this morning. Mr. Gupta was shot at from close range when he stepped out of his house. He was immediately rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Thirty nine years old Mr. Gupta was an executive member of the party's Chandigarh unit.

Parties Demand Expansion of Gandhi Death Probe

BK2905162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] The Congress-I, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the CPI [Communist Party of India] have called for expanding the terms of reference of the Justice Verma commission so that it inquires into all aspects of the assassination of the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said the commission should not be limited to probing only the security aspects.

The BJP vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, has also urged the government to widen the terms of reference of the Justice Verma commission.

The CPI, in a statement, has also said that in the national interest, the commission with wider terms of reference should probe the Rajiv Gandhi assassination.

BJP Seeks Probe of Foreign Role

BK3005093891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has demanded an inquiry into the alleged involvement of foreign agencies in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Addressing a news conference in Lucknow today, Mr. Vajpayee said the increased number of political assassinations in the country is an unfortunate development. He attributed it to the entry of illegal sophisticated arms into the country. He said firm measures should be taken to check this trend.

Mr. Vajpayee also urged the election commission to reconsider the holding of elections in Punjab.

Sri Lanka Asked for Assistance

BK2905090591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, contacts have been made by the Indian High Commission with defense and security agencies for necessary assistance from the Sri Lankan authorities to help the Indian investigation team visiting Colombo shortly to find out if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had a hand in the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The Sri Lankan defense secretary, General Cyril Ranataunga, has already said Sri Lanka would give all assistance in the matter, if asked for.

President Denies Being Misled by Prime Minister

BK3005075291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] The president's press secretary today dismissed as incorrect the report appearing in a section of the press that the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, had misled the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, regarding the possibility of a hung parliament after elections. The press secretary clarified that the prime minister did not discuss with the presient anything relating to a hung parliament, so the question of misleading the president does not arise, he added.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Arabic Prayers

NC2405121791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 91

[Friday Arabic sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 24 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace be on God's messenger, his family, and the faithful worshipers of God.

Scattered news reports refer to the size of the destruction of the sacred Islamic sites in al-Najaf and Karbala', the humiliation inflicted on the holy cities, and the bestial extermination of the oppressed people in southern Iraq. However, arrogant media have remained inexplicably silent on that matter.

The little news that was published led to alarm and anger among the people. Many questions were raised about the allegations of the forces that intervened in the Persian Gulf crisis in international forums and posed as defenders of human rights. The silence of these forces, which indicates their satisfaction, provides food for thought for the world public.

Those forces have mobilized forces and claimed to be defending the Kuwaiti people who suffered an injustice. They claimed to seek stability and security in the region and fortified these claims with the endorsement of international organizations. Now, how will these forces answer the doubts about the sincerity of their intentions?

Are the Iraqi people, who suffered much injustice and pain in the past and the present, not human beings? Why are the inhabitants of the same country in the north and in the south treated in two different ways?

The announcement of mourning by the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran has been received with satisfaction in popular and religious circles. This proves beyond doubt that international public opinion is aware of the enemies' intentions.

I also wish to discuss the Palestinian issue. There are efforts being exerted to pressure the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic countries to abandon their valid and lawful demands for the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Today the expansionist designs, endless ambitions, and arrogant intransigence of the Zionists cannot be mistaken. The Zionists have a military buildup in south Lebanon. The Zionists are threatening neighboring countries. They are even rejecting proposals that were formulated to defend Israel's illegitimate interests in robbing the rights of the Palestinian people, claiming that these proposals are in conflict with a part of their filthy aims. All of the above is cause for alarm and brings to light some of the secrets surrounding the creation of the bastard entity of Israel and its long-term objectives.

We are full of hope that the Muslims of the world will learn the lesson presented by these bitter events and make the proper decisions to restore their usurped rights.

I take refuge in God from the evil Satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Say: He is God, the one and only; God, the eternal, absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verse] Peace be on you and the mercy of God.

Armed Clashes Along Iraqi Border Reported

TA2405121291 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that armed clashes broke out last night along the Iran-Iraq border in the Qasr-e Shirin and Shahabad-e Gharb region between forces of the Islamic Republic and Iraq. These clashes began at midnight, 21 May, and are still going on.

Military analysts believe that the provocations conducted by the Islamic Republic regime in recent months in an effort to destabilize the situation in Iraq were the main factor for these clashes. In the opinion of these same analysts, the Islamic Republic regime's actions are tantamount to playing with fire. Should another war break out between Iraq and the Islamic Republic, certainly no country will support the Islamic Republic regime. Once again, our country will be subject to devastation and thousands of Iranian youths as well as members of the Iranian armed forces will become the victims of the adventures of the mullahs ruling in our homeland.

Pakistan

Party Chief Demands Expulsion of U.S. Ambassador

LD2505190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 25, IRNA—A leader of the Jami'et-e Ulema-e Islam (JUI) party of Pakistan demanded the immediate expulsion of the American Ambassador Robert Oakley after branding him an "undesirable person."

Senator Hafiz Hussein Ahmad who was speaking to reporters in Multan, Punjab province Friday night called the latest statements made by Oakley as "flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan."

The American ambassador while addressing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry last Thursday said, "The traders and industrialists by joining hands with the government should persuade the National Assembly of Pakistan not to play politics with the future of the country."

He also said that America no longer recognises Pakistan as a frontline country and so it should sign the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty.

Hafiz Hussein warned "This was not the first time the American ambassador had interfered in our internal affairs and the JUI would move privilege motions in the both houses of the parliament against the utterances of Oakley."

Zahid Sarfaraz a member of the Pakistan's ruling party in parliament and former interior minister in the caretaker government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has already accused the American ambassador of interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and called for his expulsion.

Sharif Meets Indian Vice President, Discusses Ties

BK2405133891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The cremation of the assassinated former Indian prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is taking place with full state honors in New Delhi this afternoon. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is representing Pakistan at the funeral. Dignitaries from a number of other countries are also attending the last rites of the former Indian prime minister. Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who arrived in New Delhi this morning, visited Teen Murti House and laid a wreath over the body of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. He stood in silence for a few minutes as a mark of respect for the departed soul. He also condoled personally with Mrs. Sonia Gandhi on the tragic death of her husband and signed the condolence book.

The prime minister called on the Indian vice president, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and expressed profound condolence on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan over the death of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. He said mourning of Indian people was shared by the people of Pakistan with deep sense of grief.

Both the leaders expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would improve. They felt the need of resolving outstanding issues between India and Pakistan through peaceful negotiations as this was the only way to move forward. Later, the foreign minister of Germany, Mr. Genscher, and the British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, paid separate calls on the Pakistan prime minister at his hotel suite.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at New Delhi Airport, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said he had come to personally express the grief of the people and the government of Pakistan with the people of India over the death of Mr. Gandhi. Replying to a question, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the need of the hour was that there should be improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations.

Sharif Hints at Possible Summit

BK2505100291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Pakistan is expected to hold summit-level talks with India to consider the Kashmir problem. This was disclosed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while talking to Pakistani newsmen in New Delhi yesterday evening. He said the summit meeting is expected to be held after the completion of the election process in India. He felt that the Indian leadership, too, is eager to hold negotiations to resolve the Kashmir problem. The Kashmir dispute, Nawaz Sharif observed, can be resolved only if India and Pakistan begin frank and purposeful discussions. A solution to the Kashmir dispute is a must, and if it is not achieved, tension between the two countries will continue to increase.

About his talks with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, the prime minister said they exchanged views on Pakistan's nuclear program. Further negotiations on this issue will be held between the two countries. A delegation led by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad will shortly visit the United States to remove Washington's misgivings about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. However, he emphasized that Pakistan will continue to pursue its principled policy on the nuclear program and will not compromise the country's security which is of paramount importance with all other things being of secondary value.

The prime minister said he also discussed the Kashmir problem with the U.S. vice president and apprised him of Pakistan's stand on this issue. The U.S. vice president shared his view that the Kashmir problem should be resolved as soon as possible.

Nawaz Sharif said he discussed the Kashmir issue with German Foreign Minister Genscher and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd as well. He also informed them of the economic reforms launched by his government for the development of the country.

Views Talks With Indians

BK2505105891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held another round of talks with Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar in New Delhi today. The talks were held during a luncheon. The prime minister called on Indian President Venkataraman this morning and expressed condolences on behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan on the tragic death of Rajiv Gandhi. Iranian Vice President Mohajerani also called on the prime minister.

Talking to newsmen after his meeting with the Indian politicians, Nawaz Sharif said that the Kashmir issue is the major obstacle to the improvement of relations between Pakistan and India, and the problem should be resolved once and for all through negotiations. He said it will not be in the interest of both the countries if the Kashmir issue remains unresolved. He said that he met most of the Indian political leaders and ascertained their views. They themselves told him that the Kashmir issue should definitely be resolved because there is no other alternative.

In reply to a question on the border skirmishes, the prime minister said that this is a matter of great concern

for Pakistan, adding that Pakistan would not like to see such clashes occur. He said that we have some apprehensions and doubts and misgivings. And we will hold talks with the government in India, which will come into power after the process of elections there.

Replying to a question whether there is any possibility of a summit meeting between Pakistan and India, Nawaz Sharif said that the authorities should prepare the details before convening such a conference, adding that he will definitely welcome a summit meeting if it is necessary.

3 Dead in 'Unprovoked' Shooting by Indian Forces

BK2705071591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 May 91 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad, May 25—Three people were killed and two injured when Indian forces started unprovoked firing on different areas of Jehium Valley [25 May] Saturday.

Confirming the casualties the authorities said that the Indian firing had created panic among the villagers working in the field.

Three civilians died on the spot while the two injured were rushed to the local hospital where one of them is said to be in critical condition.

In the recent Indian firing in Chakothi sector some 30 houses and 10 shops were badly damaged—PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL].

Sharif Reiterates Commitment To Meet Army Needs

BK2605163491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The prime minister attended a briefing at the GHQ [General Headquarters] in Rawalpindi this evening, during which he was informed about the professional capabilities of the Army. It was part of the briefing held at the GHQ last week for the prime minister. Mr. Nawaz Sharif approved various recommendations made for improvement of the professional caliber of the Army. He reiterated his government's commitment to meet all requirements of the armed forces within the national resources.

Sharif May Face No-Confidence Motion

BK2105124191 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 19 May 91 pp 1, 4

[By Abdul Jabbar Khan]

[Text] Karachi—"A no confidence move against Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif cannot be ruled out as around 50 per cent of Parliament members, closely monitoring gross irregularities and mismanagement of the Premier, are getting disillusioned" claimed dissident PML [Pakistan Muslim League] leader, MNA [Member of National Assembly], Zahid Sarfraz who also charged the Federal Government with making an attempt on his life recently in Islamabad.

He said "grand clearance sale" is the fiscal policy being pursued by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shahabaz Sharif is running the stock market.

He said the sale of nationalised Muslim Commercial Bank has proved that the so-called disinvestment and denationalisation policy was aimed at distribution of national wealth among the chosen few of the ruling party. He said Finance Minister, Senator Sartaj Aziz first introduced the duty-free import policy of commercial vehicles in CBU [Completely Built Unit] form and later withdrew the policy, thus helping, "one influential party" to make a profit of Rs [rupees] 40 crore.

Address a news conference, here on Saturday, Mian Zahid Sarfraz said there seems to be no difference between the Premier and the President on political or economic policies. "The may be differences between the two but not on the question of distribution of wealth," he added. He alleged the grand clearance sale of nationalised public sector units is meant to concentrate public money in a few hands, making the rich richer and poor poorer.

Zahid Sarfraz said the Shariah [Islamic law] Bill is a lolly pop delivered to the people of Pakistan. There are sharp differences within the ruling IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] parliamentary party and the members of the National Assembly were approached and persuaded through pressure not to oppose the Bill. He said over 50 per cent of the members of the ruling IJI are opposed to government policies.

Zahid Sarfraz said that there is a consensus among IJI MNAs that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is totally misfit for the office. He further charged the Federal Government with following a pro-India policy. He said on the issue of Kashmir and pro-India policy, he would hold another Press conference at Islamabad. He said, he had been pleading with Nawaz Sharif not to promote vested interests but he did not pay heed to his pleas. He said the industrialists of the country have formed a clique and planned to control the public sector units and the beginning has been made with Mulsim Commercial Bank. The vested interests intervened and handed over the bank to their blue-eyed persons.

He said all public sector units are included in their list and underhand deals would be struck in order to have their share of the national wealth. He said Mian Shahbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister are more clever than Asif Ali Zardari.

He said previously bank loans were controversial now the banks are being looted in the name of privatisation and denationalisation. He accused the Prime Minister of gross irregularities in denationalisation and disinvestment. He said if taxes were not levied or enhanced for

revenue at the time of budget, huge deficit financing would be resorted to in the coming budget.

The prices of wheat flour and other consumer items and power have already been enhanced causing problems to the poor people. He said the Finance and Planning Ministers were facing difficulties to meet the pledges made by Premier during his Sindh visit last December.

He said tall claims and false promises are made to make political gains. He said Shahbaz Sharif and his team are sitting in the Prime Minister's House playing the drama of tenders in the denationalisation scheme and are making money at the cost of national interest.

Zahid Sarfraz said the incident of the burning of his car in Islamabad was nothing but an attempt on his life. He narrated the whole incident and said the Intelligence Bureau personnel had always chased him.

He said he would continue his independent policy and criticise government steps which are against the interests of the people.

He said Malik Naeem had accused me of the old car-scandal. He said during military rule in early eighties those involved in the case were punished and the file was closed but again he is being threatened.

Referring to Indus Water Apportionment and NFC [National Finance Commission] Award, he said that total available water is 105 MAF [million acre feet] while claims have been made for 117 MAF. He said the issue of water apportionment has been resolved only on paper.

He claimed this is manipulation of figures. He criticised the Punjab Chief Minister also saying that he had no powers to run the province and petty matters are being addressed to the Centre for help and guidance. He said the Punjab Government is an extension of the Centre.

Bhutto: Rajiv Gandhi Victim of New World Order

BK2505120591 Karachi DAWN in English 24 May 91 p 15

[Text] Lahore, May 23—The Leader of the Opposition and Co-Chairman of Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, said here on Thursday, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, "is a victim of the changing new world order," and added: "The creators of the new world order have already determined the role of different personalities in their own countries."

She maintained that the Nehru family was above sectarianism and Mr Rajiv was assassinated to pave way for harming democracy in India. Ms Bhutto was talking to newsmen on arrival from Karachi before proceeding to New Delhi to attend the funeral of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

A large number of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders, including Fakhar Zaman, Jehangir Badr, Rana Shaukat Mehmud, Rana Ikram Rabbani, Salman Taseer, Haji Mohammad Asif, Hanif Ramey, Shahid Mehmud Nawaz and retired Major Mohammad Sadiq, were present at the airport to receive her.

Ms Bhutto expressed the view that the Congress (I) will certainly face a crisis after the assassination of its President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. His death could disintegrate the party like the Muslim League in Pakistan which split after the death of the Quaid-i-Azam [Jinnah], she added.

The PPP leader said she foresaw violence in India which could spread to the whole country after the murder of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

She said she was going to New Delhi to condole the death of Mr Rajiv with the Indian leaders and his family members, including Ms Sonia Gandhi.

To a question, she said it was conveyed to her if she could make a telephonic call to the Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, personally, to ensure her inclusion in the goernment delegation for New Delhi, but she replied: "Why should I ring him up?"

Solarz Criticized for 'Hostile Attitude'

BK2705093591 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: "An Unfortunate Stance"]

[Text] It seems Congressman Stephen Solarz does not believe in missing any opportunity of maligning Pakistan and making repeatedly sure that it is denied any U.S. aid. While the Indian government is pointing its finger in other directions for the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, this pro-India Congressman has attempted to blame the Sikh secessionists for it and insinuated a link between them and Pakistan. Speaking in the U.S. House of Foreign Affairs Committee which was considering Bush administration's request for foreign aid, he said if that was allowed to Pakistan it would put the region on the brink of another war. Throughout the Committee deliberations, he maintained a hostile attitude and spearheaded the campaign to defeat amendments aimed at diluting or repealing a law so as to lift a ban on U.S. aid to Pakistan.

American economic and military assistance to Pakistan has been suspended since October 1990 because of its so-called nuclear programme. President George Bush recently proposed new legislation to Congress which would rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide greater flexibility and eliminate obsolete provisions of the current law which hamper his ability to conduct U.S. Foreign policy in a rapidly changing world. In fact, he sent a new International Cooperation Act, 1991, which would remove the Pressler Amendment which makes it necessary for the President to issue an annual certificate that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device before American aid is released to it. However, the Democrats in the U.S. Congress are against the repeal of the Amendment.

The House Sub-Committee on Asia and Pacific Affairs, headed by Mr. Stephen J. Solarz, has recently recommended that the administration's request of 259.471 million dollars for fiscal 1992 should be authorised only if Pakistan has obtained a Pressler Amendment Certificate, otherwise the money "should be transfered in other accounts." The position of Pakistan is crystal clear vis-a-vis its peaceful nuclear programme but Mr. Solarz, in his brazen partisanship, continues to target it deliberately turning a blind eye to India's own highly suspicious nuclear activities. He has doggedly fought against a move to include India in the Pressler Amendment saying it would alienate New Delhi. The latest outburst of Mr. Solarz against Pakistan is not only provocative and inflammatory but outrightly mischievous. It doesn't augur well for Pak-U.S. relations.

Detention of Indian 'Agent' Ordered

BK2705071491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 May 91 p 12

[Text] Lahore, May 25—In view of the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Punjab Government as a precautionary measure, has ordered detention of an Indian national Manjeet Singh under strict security till June 5.

Manjeet Singh who is considered as a RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agent is already in custody facing charges of conducting terrorist activities in Pakistan through bomb blasts. He is alleged to have caused bomb blasts outside Yakki Gate, Bhatti Gate and Ghaziabad in Lahore during 1990. Three persons died and several were injured during these blasts

Sharif Stresses Need for Economic Austerity

BK2905150691 Karachi DAWN in English 29 May 91 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 28—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Tuesday that the nation should be ready for making sacrifices as the economic situation was grim. "Debt servicing and defence expenditure eat up a large part of the revenue," he added.

Speaking at the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary party meeting, he said cut in foreign aid and the Gulf war had caused setbacks to the economy. "The situation demands sacrifices from the nation."

He said the Government would pursue the policy of self-reliance. "Through privatisation we will generate enough revenues to boost defence expenditure and meet the shortfall caused by cut in foreign aid."

Some of the IJI MNAs [Members of National Assembly] raised strong objections against the US Ambassador in Pakistan for criticising MNAs in a speech at the Lahore Chambers of Commerce.

Talking to newsmen in the Senate lobby, Mr Sharif said the opposition should not "resort to opposition for the sake of opposition".

The Prime Minister parried a question about the objection raised by Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto regarding President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's tenure.

Mr Nawaz said the Government would soon announce a package of incentives for skilled workers and professionals. Loans totalling billions of rupees would be disbursed to enable them to set up in business, he said.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] adds: Mr Nawaz said well-being of the poor was the top priority of the Government and this would be reflected in the Budget.

The privatisation policy, he said, had been launched with the primary objective to generate maximum employment opportunities in the country. The private sector was also being encouraged and being provided incentives for the same purpose, he added.

The Prime Minister said the country was confronted with serious economic problems, especially the foreign debt. The Government, he said, was pursuing policy of self-reliance to put the country's economy on an even keel. He noted with dismay that debts to the tune of about Rs 7 crore were mounting every day, which was a very deplorable economic situation.

He said that this question was debated at the parliamentary party's meeting.

Mr Nawaz Sharif said the parliamentary party identified the problems facing the national economy and chalked out its strategy to deal with these problems, in a befitting manner. The present economic difficulties of the nation were the direct outcome of the defective policies of the previous governments, he added.

He stated that the IJI Government had embarked on remedial measures to improve the national economy.

The Prime Minister also told a questioner that the parliamentary party also discussed the law and order situation in the country.

Paper on Record Increase in Inflation Rate

BK2905144291 Karachi DAWN in English 29 May 91 p 1

[From Ihtishamul Haque]

[Text] Islamabad, May 28—The rate of inflation has more than doubled during the last 12 months, according to the Economic Survey for 1990-91, released here on Tuesday morning.

The unprecedented 12.29 percent inflation (Consumer Price Index—CPI) has been recorded during July-March 1990-91, compared to 5.69 percent during the same period in 1989-90.

An upward pressure on prices, according to the survey, started building up in the last quarter of 1989-90 and the CPI registered a cumulative increase of 3.84 percent. The situation aggravated further in subsequent two months as in July and August 1990, CPI increased by 2.44 and 2.45 percent respectively.

Thereafter, this tempo subdued, with the exception of November 1990 when the prices rose again due to upward adjustment in oil prices.

During the period, increase in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) which stood at 11.16 percent was slightly lower. The SPI [Sensitive Price Indicator] which consists of 45 essential items showed an identical growth as the CPI.

The Survey revealed that the deterioration of price situation during July-March was caused by a number of factors such as production-supply constraints specially in onion, garlic, potato and pulses, upward adjustment of oil prices in November, 1990 following Gulf crisis, enhancement in certain taxes/duties in 1990-91 budget, monetary expansion about 13.0 percent in last fiscal year and 10.9 percent during July-March 1990-91 as against 7.9 percent during the same period last year, cost-push effect through imports and continuous depreciation of Pakistani rupee.

The CPI showed an annual increase of 12.29 during July-March 1990-91 over the corresponding period last year. The transport and communication registered the highest increase of 22.68 percent due to rise in oil prices, followed by food, beverages, tobacco group recording 12.73 percent increase. On the basis of their respective weight, the food group contributed 6.35 percentage points and transport and communication group 1.41 percentage points towards overall price increase of 12.29 percent during the said period.

The wholesale price index (WPI) registered on increase of 11.16 percent during July-March 1990-91 over the same period last year. Prices of manufactures recorded the highest increase in WPI followed by fuel, lighting and lubricants.

Regarding Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) consisting of retail prices of 46 essential items of daily use of low-income groups (earning upto Rs 1,000 per month) recorded an average increase of 12.7 percent in July-March 1990-91 over the corresponding period last year.

Sri Lanka

British High Commissioner Persona Non Grata

BK3005121791 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0949 GMT 30 May 91

["Oana/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 May (LANKAPUVATH)—The British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka has been declared persona non grata by the Sri Lankan Government.

The announcement was made by Foreign Secretary Bernard Tillakaratna at this afternoon's Cabinet news briefing in Colombo.

The foreign secretary in a press statement said, the government of Sri Lanka was greately concerned about the conduct of the British High Commissioner, H.E. [His Excellency] David Gladstone, during the recent local government elections.

Mr. Gladstone's conduct was an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. This has also led to considerable adverse publicity both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

In these circumstances, the government could have immediately declared Mr. Gladstone persona non grata. However, considering the traditionally close and friendly relations between Britain and Sri Lanka, H.E. the president decided to intimate to the Hon. prime minister of Britain the displeasure of the government regarding the personal conduct of Mr. Gladstone. This was sent to London through the secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also took the opportunity to further elaborate on this matter during the two meetings he had with his counterpart, the permanent under secretary of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and also handed over an aide memoire setting out the details of Mr. Gladstone's personal conduct during the local government elections.

Mr. Gladstone's conduct exceeded normal diplomatic functions and violated the accepted norms of diplomatic practice. It has also proved prejudicial to the good relations between Sri Lanka and Britain. The government, therefore, decided to declare him persona non grata and this was conveyed to the British government on 29th May 1991.

Indian Team Probing Gandhi Assassination Arrives

BK3005105091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0939 GMT 30 May 91

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 30 May (LANKAPUVATH)—A team of officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation of India (CBI) arrived in Colombo this morning in connection with the investigation into the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon said at this afternoon's Cabinet news briefing that the officers will have discussions and exchange information with Sri Lankan Security Forces and intelligence officers.

Meanwhile, a PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] dispatch received by LANKAPUVATH states the CBI of India team is led by the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Raja Vijaykaran; Director D.R. Karthikeyan, head of the special investigation team; and two other officers.

Air Force To Obtain 3 Chinese F-7 Fighters

BK2605094491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Colombo, May 26 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Air Force will get at least three Chinese-made F-7 jet fighter aircraft, the English-language Sunday ISLAND reported here.

The ISLAND quoted Air Force Chief Terrance Gunawardene as saying that the acquisition was part of their modernisation plan but did not give any details of the purchase or when the aircraft would be delivered.

The newspaper said the high speed jets could not be used in the ongoing drive against Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the island's northeast where the air force is currently using Bell helicopters and small fixed-wing planes.

Western diplomats said Colombo may have been forced to buy the aircraft as part of an arms package as there was very little scope for the high-speed jets in Sri Lanka.